

SAC, Miami (44-270)

February 8, 1952

Director, FBI (44-4118)

UNSUBS.  
HARRY T. MOORE, ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-16-82 BY SP-6/BJK/BJ

RECORDED - 96

44-4118-163

Rerep SA [redacted], dated 1/28/52 at Miami.

Reference is made to the interview with Thomas Lee Johnson, of Titusville, Florida, particularly to that portion of the interview set forth on Page 26 in which Johnson stated that two persons had seen two automobiles in the grove in front of Victim Moore's house on Christmas evening prior to the explosion but when two Agents had interviewed these persons, they said they know nothing about this incident. Johnson should be reinterviewed concerning the identity of these two possible witnesses in order that the witnesses may be interviewed. If necessary, you may be able to arrange for the interviews through Johnson.

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Reference is made to Pages 45 and 46 reflecting an interview with [redacted] Nims, Florida. It would appear that [redacted] did not give full information concerning his whereabouts on 12/25/51 and, in view of [redacted] background, investigation should be conducted in order to definitely establish his whereabouts on that date.

Reference is made to the interview with Simon Smith Manning, a close associate of Suspect Earl Brooklyn, particularly Page 106 which indicates the whereabouts of Manning on 12/25/51. Investigation should be conducted in an effort to definitely establish his whereabouts on that date. In this regard, all of the people present, including the relatives of Pat Hall in Georgia, should be interviewed. Further reference is made to Page 100 reflecting information to the effect that Manning may have possibly violated Section 80, Title 18, U. S. Code, by making false statements in his Application for Federal Employment when he failed to list his prior arrest record and his Ku Klux Klan membership. You should determine the exact Klan group to which he belonged. A signed statement should be obtained and other investigation in this regard should be conducted and incorporated into a subsequent report in this case. Thereafter, the question of prosecution as to Manning will be taken up with the Department.

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In view of Manning's background and association with Suspect Brooklyn, you should determine the identity of Manning's close associates and determine whether they may possibly be involved in the death of the victims.

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Memorandum to SAC, Miami

A review of rerep and other reports from auxiliary offices concerning the whereabouts of the two main suspects, Earl Brooklyn and Tillman H. Belvin, on 12/25/51, reflects that the persons interviewed are at very wide variances in several instances as to what these suspects were doing on the pertinent evening. It is very important that the exact whereabouts of these two suspects on 12/25/51 be established as closely as possible and it is desired that you press this particular investigation of these two suspects very vigorously. It is suggested that all pertinent persons be reinterviewed and questioned very thoroughly and minutely as to their exact whereabouts and actions on 12/25 and that such information be set forth in signed statements. In regard to the whereabouts of Belvin on 12/25, it is also desired that [redacted] be interviewed, as well as people in the apartment house where [redacted] lived on that date, to determine whether those people will have any information of value.

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Reference is made to the interview with [redacted] of the Creamette, Orlando, which was bombed on 11/1/51. This incident should be thoroughly investigated in an effort to determine whether the persons responsible for this bombing were in any way connected with the death of the victims in instant case. In regard to this investigation, it is suggested that photographs of suspected Klan members be exhibited to [redacted]. He was contacted several days previous to the bombing by an individual who may be one of the subjects in this incident.

Some of the foregoing suggested lines of inquiry may be the subject of investigation by your office; however, the Bureau cannot be sure of this because of the absence of any specific leads being set forth for your office. In the future it is desired that investigative leads for your office which arise from information contained in subsequent reports be set forth in order that the Bureau will be informed that you plan to investigate the apparent leads in the report.

- Olson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ida \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Almont \_\_\_\_\_
- Legg \_\_\_\_\_
- Lavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Wisen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Sohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Andy \_\_\_\_\_

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

INDEXED - 96  
FILE NO.

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

REPORT MADE AT <b>MIAMI</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>JAN 28 1952</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1-8 to 1-26-52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>TM:esh</b>
TITLE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; HARRY T. MOORE and HARRIETT MOORE - VICTIMS (deceased)</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

*Mrs Harry T. Moore*

On 1-9-52, explosive tests conducted at USAF Guided Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla., through cooperation U.S. Army Ordnance Officers to determine (1) type of explosive used in instant bombing, (2) knowledge or skill required in detonation of explosive and (3) equipment necessary to effect explosion. Conclusions drawn to date: (1) no great amount of skill or equipment required in detonation, (2) possibility that dynamite used in explosion very likely. Interviews of associates of victim MOORE in NAACP and Progressive Voters League as well as residents of Mims, Indian River and Cocoa, Fla. produced little of value. Additional interviews of associates of suspect ANDREW FORTENBERRY reflects he took his political defeat very hard; however, no evidence FORTENBERRY held any animosity toward victim HARRY T. MOORE or blamed him for defeat. Two former associates of FORTENBERRY expressed opinion he would not have had anything to do with bombing. Neither heard him mention MOORE before or after election. Neighbors of suspect BROOKLYN advised BROOKLYN one of group of robed Klansmen who approximately 5 years ago came to [redacted] residence and ordered [redacted] to move a negro family living

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1 cc temp. retained  
From 5716 DST

SAC, mm  
DST 2/1/52

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on [redacted] property. Associates of suspect BROOKLYN deny any knowledge of KKK activity on his part. Immediate supervisor at place of employment advised BROOKLYN has made anti-negro statements and attempted to induce a fellow employee to join Klan. No criminal or credit record. Orlando, Fla. for BROOKLYN. On interview 1-18-52, admitted being member KKK but denied any active participation for approximately past 1 1/2 years because of ill health. Denied ever seeing floor plans victim MOORE's house or ever hearing of MOORE or having knowledge of bombing until radio broadcast. Claimed he, his wife and daughter had Christmas dinner with friends near Orlando, then returned here and retired. BROOKLYN's wife gave same information re their activities Christmas day and night; denies she ever knew her husband was Klansman. Claimed first time she ever heard of MOORE or bombing was from newspapers. Denied husband has ever discussed bombing or mentioned MOORE's name. Friends with whom BROOKLYN allegedly had dinner verified fact. Neighbors and associates of suspect BELVIN furnished little or no information as to his activities. No criminal record, Orlando. Credit records indicate he passed several non-sufficient funds checks in 1928-9. On interview 1-20-52 admitted being former Exalted Cyclops, Orlando Klavern of AGK, claimed he restrained suspect BROOKLYN from proposing radical measures at Klan meetings. Stated while [redacted] was E.C., BROOKLYN had free rein in radical proposals. BELVIN claims for past 1 1/2 years has been inactive due to ill health. Denied any knowledge instant matter or victims. Claimed he and family at home Christmas day and night. Mrs. BELVIN denied any knowledge husband is or was Klansman. Claimed to have never heard of victims until read of bombing in

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newspapers. Denied she and husband have ever discussed bombing. Additional investigation concerning source of dynamite unproductive. FBI Laboratory examinations have not furnished any information to date to assist in determining type of explosive used.

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I. EXPLOSIVE TESTS CONDUCTED JANUARY 9,  
1952, AT U. S. AIR FORCE GUIDED MISSILE  
TEST CENTER, CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA

On January 9, 1952, a series of experimental explosive tests were conducted to assist in drawing on-the-spot conclusions as to: (1) the type of explosive that was used in instant bombing, (2) the knowledge or skill required in the detonation of explosives and (3) the equipment necessary to effect such an explosion. These tests were arranged by Bureau Agents through Captain [redacted] U. S. Army Ordnance Officer at the U. S. Air Force Guided Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida. The first series of tests were conducted to collect soil samples of specimens from the detonation of TET, dynamite, and prima cord. The soil in which the explosives were placed was taken from the area of the blast at the victims' house. The second series of tests were performed for the purpose of witnessing the demolition effects of dynamite and tetrytol as used under abandoned houses on the Air Force reservation. A final test was conducted to ascertain if a single flashlight battery was capable of exploding electric detonating caps.

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These tests are as follows:

TEST #1.

Properties: One tub of soil samples taken from the area around the victims' home; [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] The explosive charge was laid right on top of the mound of soil samples. The mound was 2½' in diameter, 8" high.

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Results: A yellow flash surrounded by black and white smoke which quickly dissipated into the air. The crater was 3' in diameter and 4" deep from the top of the mound. A considerable amount of grayish white material was in the immediate crater. It was determined that 8½" of the detonator wire was destroyed or disintegrated

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by this explosion. In the crater were found the metal cap of one of the TNT containers, a 1½" square piece of the cardboard wrapping which still contained the coloring and printing unchanged by the blast, and a ½" piece of charred wrapping.

TEST #2.

Properties: One tub of soil taken from the area around the victims' home. [redacted]

[redacted] laid flat upon the soil which was 3' in diameter and 4" high. The dynamite was detonated by [redacted] and detonated in the same manner and with the same equipment as in Test #1.

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Results: A yellow flash surrounded by white smoke. The smoke appeared to linger in the immediate area longer than in Test #1. The crater was 2½' in diameter and approximately 6" deep from the top of the mound. A grayish white material was found in the center of the crater and found a greater depth within the crater than in Test #1. Immediately following the blast a definite odor could be discerned approximately 30 yards from the blast area. There was a slight south wind blowing and the observers approached the blast area from the east. This odor dissipated rapidly and could thereafter only be discerned by holding the soil close to the nose. It was determined that 2" of the detonator wire was destroyed or disintegrated by this explosion. No wrapping paper or detonating cap particles were found in the blast area.

TEST #3.

Properties: One tub of soil taken from the area around victims' home. 3' in diameter and 6" high. [redacted]

[redacted] used to explode it with the same equipment and in the same manner as Test #2.

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Results: A sharp blast occurred with a bright yellow flash surrounded by gray smoke which dissipated in the air quickly. The crater was 2' in diameter and 6" deep from the top of the mound. A pronounced odor of burnt powder could be discerned in the immediate

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crater area. It was determined that 2" of the detonator wire was destroyed or disintegrated by this explosion. There were no fragments of the explosive or detonator found in the blast area.

TEST #4

Properties:

a standard U. S. Army Engineers demolition charge. The explosive was placed under a frame building similar to the construction and form of the home of HARRY T. MOORE, but not as well constructed. The explosive was placed 18" from the floor on the ground and placed under the house 1 1/2' from the north wall and 6' from the east wall, there being a porch extending along the east side of the house to simulate conditions at the MOORE home.

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Results: No flash was visible, heavy black smoke surrounded the immediate blast area and dissipated quickly. The crater was 4' in diameter and from 15-16" deep from the surface of the ground. A charred piece of the heavily waxed paper wrapping of the explosive charge, approximately 3" x 1 1/2" was recovered from the blast area. The north wall of the building was blown away from the foundations, the porch flooring was lifted loose and scattered; what appeared to be scorch marks were prevalent on the cross timbers and a light grayish material was found in the immediate blast crater. The ceiling above the explosion was destroyed in an 8' circle. The rest of the ceiling was shattered and hanging loose. The west side of the house had the lower siding blown loose near the base. The southwest corner was not damaged except for one piece of siding being blown out. The south side of the house was intact with no noticeable damage. The detonator wire was blown approximately 10' northeast of the house and was entangled in the debris, being wrapped around several long boards.

It should be noted that this house is on pilings as the MOORE home and has an 18" air space between the ground and the floor.

TEST #5

Properties:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This charge was placed 2' from the south side and 4' from the east side of the building; and under the house. An empty 50 gallon drum was placed in the room immediately over the explosive charge to ascertain what the effects of the blast would be upon it. The floor of this house was of pine and the walls of cypress siding, all in good condition.

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Results: A vertical blast occurred surrounded by heavy black smoke which dissipated quickly and no odor was discerned in the immediate blast area unless the soil from the crater was held close to the nose. The south wall, intact, was blown away from the east wall and the roof. The east wall was shattered in the immediate room under which the charge was set off. There was no damage to the north wall and the west wall was intact except for the siding being blown loose near the eaves. The flooring of the room under which the charge was placed was splintered. The ceiling was completely shattered and portions of it were blown through the roof and some back into the attic from the other rooms. The back porch which was adjacent to the east wall was loosened and scattered similar to the porch of MOORE's residence. The immediate crater formed was 1' in diameter, 7" deep, this immediate crater being surrounded by a tapering crater approximately 4' in diameter. A grayish white material was found in the immediate crater to a depth of 1 1/2'. The detonating wire was found entangled in the debris, being wrapped around the 4 x 8" sill which was blown from beneath the house. No other evidence of the explosive charge could be found in the crater or in debris under the house.

TEST #6.

The following tests were conducted to ascertain if a single flashlight battery would detonate a #6 instantaneous electric detonator.

The following equipment was used:

[REDACTED]

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Captain [redacted] advised that [redacted]

[redacted] used in Test #5. After viewing the photographs of the home of victim HARRY T. MOORE illustrating the damage done to that home by the unknown explosive, Captain [redacted] concluded that the results of Test #4 (where the [redacted] was used) approximated the damage done to the MOORE home. He advised that pound for pound the tetrytol could produce the same effects as the same amount of dynamite. He stated that because of the varied characteristics of explosives used in demolition, it would be practically impossible to determine just what explosive was used in any given test unless portions of the wrappers or containers could be found. He gave his opinion that the grayish white material found in the craters of all the test explosions were merely pulverized sand and said that most high order explosives such as dynamite, TNT and tetrytol were less likely to cause any fire after their detonations and that low order explosives were the type that left considerable burn and scorch marks.

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He advised the amount of dynamite used in Test #5 was probably a little more explosive than that used under the victims' house stating it was a pretty heavy charge. Captain [redacted] experience with explosives was generally limited to experiments using explosives against concrete and steel rather than wooden buildings.

In regard to the use of a "shaped charge", Captain [redacted] stated it was his opinion that the subject could have innovated a shaped charge by crudely taping sticks of explosives in a cone shape but a military shaped charge would have had a more penetrating effect on the victims' house rather than a shattering effect such as was exhibited in the photographs of MOORE's residence. He stated a bundle of dynamite sticks tightly taped together would confine the path of the blast more so than a loose stack of dynamite or explosive sticks.

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In forming a shaped charge it would be possible to use blocks of an explosive of different size to shape a cone with the force of the explosion directed toward the base of the cone.

It should be noted that [redacted] is slightly less powerful than the similar weight of TNT, according to Captain [redacted]



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On January 10, 1952, Second Lieutenant [redacted] Third Army, Assistant Staff Explosive Ordnance Disposal Office, Fort McPherson, Georgia, viewed the results of the damage to the home of HARRY T. MOORE at Hills, Florida, and then viewed the results of the above described experimental explosions conducted at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Lieutenant [redacted] stated that the charge used under HARRY T. MOORE's residence was not a regular military shaped charge by reason of the fact there was too much blast damage. He stated that the characteristics were not anything like the damage that accompanies the detonation of a shaped charge. He stated if such were used the victims would have been mutilated by the blast and the damage through the floor, the bed and the roof would be similar to that resulting from a large projectile penetrating the house and destroying or passing through everything in its path; that a shaped charge blast is extremely confined in its path.

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In comparing the test blasts with that at the victims' home he said that Test Blast #4, in his opinion (in which [redacted] was used) was very similar. He stated Test Explosion #5 was heavier and more shattering. He advised the detonating materials and explosive container particles are quite often found in or about the explosion crater but that he has experienced times when nothing could be found following an explosion.

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Lieutenant [redacted] said definite conclusions are difficult to arrive at because explosives react differently on different occasions and that explosive characteristics would also vary although detonated in the same type of soil. He stated he could not say just what explosive was used at the MOORE home in the absence of physical evidence. The blast, according to [redacted] could have been the result of many known explosives which dissipate themselves.

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He volunteered the statement that dynamite would leave a definite odor which, if inhaled for any length of time, would cause a severe headache. He stated if he correctly understood the weather conditions on the night of the bombing of MOORE's house, that a definite odor would have remained. He said a damp and foggy night would tend to hold the odor of dynamite in the immediate blast area.

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Lieutenant [ ] stated three explosives came to his mind in considering the nature of the explosive used on MCORE's home: TNT, dynamite and the plastic explosives. He arrived at this conclusion by virtue of the fact they are the easiest explosives obtainable. He stated large military bases usually have a supply of TNT, tetrytol and the plastic explosives for demolition work. All other explosives used by the military are not used in demolition but used for shells and other military munitions and are not readily available at the ordinary military stations.

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Both Captain [ ] and Lieutenant [ ] concluded that a person could insert a detonator of the electric or safety fuse type into an explosive charge and wind a length or two of the fuse around the charge and after the charge was detonated the ensuing explosion would disintegrate any evidence of what type fuse was used.

Both officers concurred that it is very possible that dynamite was used in instant explosion because it is most accessible of explosives and the results of the experiments indicate that dynamite very likely could have been used.

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II. INTERVIEWS OF ASSOCIATES OF VICTIM MOORE IN THE NAACP AND PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE; ALSO RESIDENTS OF MILLS, INDIAN RIVER AND COCOA, FLORIDA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRED E. GORDON and [redacted] on January 6, 1952:

WASIS: Dr. E. A. GRAHAM, [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed at Daytona Beach concerning MOORE and his activities. The names of these individuals previously furnished as persons familiar with MOORE and his operations.

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Dr. E. A. GRAHAM, 576 Second Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida, a Dentist and a member of the NAACP group in Daytona Beach, said he had known the victim since birth and had attended school with the victim during his grammar school and high school days. GRAHAM said he had not been in any recent close contact with MOORE and had last seen him in Daytona Beach during the NAACP convention in November, 1951. He said he had a very short conversation with MOORE but was not able, as a result of his contact with MOORE, to furnish any information concerning MOORE's activities during the six weeks prior to his death. He said that he knew of no threats which MOORE had received, knew of no known enemies and could not furnish any logical suspects.

GRAHAM said it was the consensus of opinion among the colored people in Daytona Beach that MOORE's activities in the Groveland case, or possibly the Miami incidents, were responsible for his death. GRAHAM said he had but one suggestion and that was that the Federal government offer a sizeable reward for information leading to the perpetrators of the crime and he said he figured it would take at least a quarter of a million dollars to make somebody talk and he felt that if the government would put up that sum of money "that some jiggaboo" would undoubtedly loosen up and come forward with some information of value.

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[redacted] Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, and [redacted] Daytona Beach, Florida, advised he had known MOORE for a period of three or four years and had seen him during MOORE's attendance at Bethune-Cookman. He said he was not familiar enough with MOORE or his activities to furnish any information bearing upon his recent activity and he added that he knew of no known enemies and knew of no threats which MOORE had received and could furnish no suspects.

[redacted] Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, and his wife, advised they had known MOORE for a period of 7 years and had last seen him during his visit in Daytona Beach at the NAACP

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convention. DuBOSE said that both of MOORE's daughters, namely [redacted] and [redacted] have been previously employed by Bethune-Cookman College as stenographers in his, [redacted] office. He said that both of these daughters had been gone from Bethune-Cookman for over a year but that during the time they were employed in his office he had never heard them mention any threats, verbally, written or otherwise, which their father had received.

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[redacted] said he was not familiar with the victim's recent activity and could not furnish any information bearing on suspects.

[redacted] employed in the Bethune-Cookman College dining room, advised he had known MOORE while MOORE was enrolled at Bethune-Cookman but was not well acquainted with him and could furnish no information which would have any bearing on the solution of this matter.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents  
OMNIE K. WALKER and STEPHEN J. LABADIE, January 7 and 8, 1952:

BASIS: Interview [redacted] office of NAACP to de-  
termine identity of the individual who offered to take over  
HARRY T. MOORE's duties as Executive Secretary on a per-  
centage or commission basis.

\*\*\*

[redacted] Tampa, Florida, home tele-  
phone 44-6393 advises he is a porter for the Pullman Company, that he has  
been engaged in activities of the NAACP for over 15 years, that he has  
known HARRY T. MOORE through the NAACP for approximately twelve years; and  
that he, [redacted] of the NAACP in Florida  
from approximately [redacted] He advises that pre-  
vious to [redacted] of the State NAACP and that  
he is presently [redacted] of the Florida Branch of  
the NAACP.

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[redacted] he  
would have been in a position to know whether anyone ever offered to take  
over HARRY MOORE's position or duties as Executive Secretary on a percent-  
age or commission basis, and that to his knowledge no one ever offered to  
take over his position. He states, however, that he can recall about one  
year ago, there had been talk about having someone go around the State of  
Florida to build moral and to solicit members for the NAACP, that a [redacted]  
[redacted] out of Orlando or [redacted] out of Tampa, Florida had sug-  
gested that a man travel over the State for such purpose and that the man  
could work on a commission basis in soliciting funds and members, that  
this suggestion was merely brought up during ordinary discussions of ways  
and means to raise money for the NAACP and that such never materialized.

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He informs that to the best of his memory, a man named [redacted]  
from Jacksonville, Florida, who is believed by him to be an insurance  
man in Jacksonville or a teacher at Edgewater College, Jacksonville,  
Florida, was the man talked about to travel on percentage basis to raise  
funds and membership and that nothing whatsoever was ever heard by him of  
[redacted] taking over as Executive Secretary.

[redacted] states that during all the years he has known  
HARRY T. MOORE, HARRY never once drank any beer or liquor, never had  
anything whatsoever to do with women, was never known to have any enemies

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and that he never heard of any threats being made to MOORE or about him. He informs that MOORE was always strictly business and always talked about activities of the NAACP, that if five members only showed up for a speech that MOORE was supposed to have, MOORE never complained, never mentioned it instead of the usual speech maker being highly incensed that no one had enough interest to show up for a gathering.

He advised that the last time he saw MOORE alive was at Daytona Beach, Florida, latter November at the NAACP convention, that the NAACP did not have any money, that it already owed MOORE salary, that the NAACP could not in all fairness, keep MOORE employed on a salary because of no money coming in and therefore it was agreed that the position would be done away with until such time as the Florida branch could get on its feet financially.

He states that this was in no way a slap on MOORE but a fair deal to do away with a job that they could not pay for. [redacted] states that he had not heard from MOORE, telephonically, through the mail or otherwise since the Daytona Beach convention because he, [redacted]

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[redacted] and MOORE was no longer Executive Secretary, therefore nothing to particularly handle. He informs that MOORE never particularly advised him of his itinerary because MOORE more or less always sent out a general letter stating the places he had been to and would hit in the future.

[redacted] was in Mims, Florida on Thursday, December 27, 1951 with the Tampa BULLETIN (Tampa, Florida weekly negro paper) photographers and observed MOORE's place, that photographs of MOORE's place, as well as story, appeared in Tampa BULLETIN on his return. He believes that whoever killed MOORE or had him killed, had to know that HARRY MOORE was going to be at his home in Mims, Florida on Christmas night because HARRY MOORE had been living near West Palm Beach, Florida with his wife. He believes that approximately one year ago an article appeared in the Tampa MORNING TRIBUNE stating that the Ku Klux Klan was going to stop movement of the NAACP in Florida and that he was wondering if this MOORE incident were not the beginning of the movement.

He informs that the "colored press" carried the story of the NAACP action at Daytona Beach in doing away with MOORE's job and that therefore any informed negroes would have known that MOORE was no longer Executive Secretary of NAACP in Florida. [redacted] made available two copies of "Florida Branches and Authorized Committees of the NAACP" which lists President and Secretary and address of each who are persons representing all active branches of the NAACP in Florida.

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[redacted] advised that Tri-City (Fruitland Park) Branch of the NAACP is the closest active branch to the city of Leesburg, Florida and that [redacted] [redacted] may know of any activities on the part of MOORE around Leesburg. [redacted] offers no explanation as to this but that MOORE was active in and around Lake County, Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on January 21, 1952 at Fernandina Beach, Florida:

BASIS: The letterhead of the Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc., of which victim HARRY T. MOORE was Executive Secretary, lists [redacted] The following investigation was conducted to determine the extent of his relationship with victims and any information he might have concerning persons responsible for their deaths.

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[redacted] advised that he is a member of the Progressive Voters League but has never attended any meetings of the organization. He said that [redacted] of the NAACP group in Fernandina Beach until its charter lapsed last year. As [redacted] of this organization he began correspondence with the victim, HARRY T. MOORE, in 1948. He has only met Moore on one occasion when he, MOORE, spoke in Fernandina Beach before the local group of the NAACP in the spring of 1949. He knew nothing of his personal life or his friends; he has never met HARRIETT MOORE and knew very little of their background.

He said that he always regarded MOORE highly and thought that he was in good standing with all members of the NAACP. He learned through a lawyer by the name of [redacted] who is associated with the Afro-American Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Florida, that MOORE's position of State Executive Secretary was abolished by a recent convention of the group and was informed by [redacted] that this action was taken due to the fact that MOORE was devoting a majority of his time to the Progressive Voters League rather than to the NAACP activities.

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[redacted] advised that MOORE never mentioned in his correspondence any individuals or groups whose animosity was aroused against him and [redacted] knew of no enemies that MOORE might have had. He did not have any information that would be of assistance in identifying the individuals responsible for the death of the victims.

He added that he is acquainted with the [redacted] who resides on [redacted] in Jacksonville, Florida, however he has not seen her since June of 1951.

EID: Jns  
MI 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRED E. GORDON and [redacted] on January 7, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] member of the West Volusia NAACP and an officer in the Progressive Voters League interviewed for information concerning MOORE's activities.

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[redacted] Deland, Florida, and employed in the transportation division at the Sanford Naval Air Station, advised he was the [redacted] of the West Volusia County NAACP and also an officer in the Progressive Voters League and that he had known MOORE since 1941.

He said he last saw the victim in Daytona Beach in November, 1951 during the NAACP convention and at that time had a short conversation with him. He could not furnish any information concerning MOORE's activity since the convention but said that during September, 1951 he had met with MOORE in Seville, Florida, at which time MOORE had spoken at a meeting of the colored folks at the St. John Baptist Church and he knew that subsequent to that meeting MOORE had proceeded to Crescent City where he had addressed a similar group at a church there.

He said he knew of no known enemies, had never heard MOORE had received any threats and had never actually taken any trips with MOORE. He said that by virtue of his past contacts with MOORE he felt quite certain that MOORE realized there was a definite danger attached to his particular type of work but that MOORE had never mentioned anything specific in the way of threats or known enemies.

[redacted] said that subsequent to the NAACP convention in Daytona Beach he had received a letter from MOORE postmarked in Lake Park, Florida and he assumed that MOORE had been working in and around the southern part of Florida subsequent to November, 1951.

[redacted] said it was his opinion MOORE's death could be attributed to the victim's activity in connection with the Croveland case and he also said that he believed MOORE was responsible for the election of an official in Brevard County, a State Legislator, name unknown, who subsequently sponsored in the legislature at Tallahassee a bill to unmask the KKK.

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[redacted] said that he believed MOORE stayed in the homes of private individuals while making his trips around the State and that usually the

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ME 44-270

President of the local NAACP groups arranged for MOORE's housing during his trips about the State. He said he believed that the victim's wife traveled with him whenever she could but he knew of no specific trips which they had taken together.

[redacted] advised that she had known MOORE for a period of several years and had last seen him in Daytona Beach in November, 1951. She said she had no conversation with him at that time, knew of no information concerning his recent activities and could not furnish the names of any suspects and knew of no threats which the victim may have received.

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WJJ:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM J. JAMISON at Lake Wales, Florida, on January 21, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] Lake Wales, Florida, reported to be [redacted]  
[redacted] Progressive Voters League, was interviewed re  
activities of HARRY T. MOORE.

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[redacted] Lake Wales, advised that he [redacted] of the Progressive Voters League of Florida. He said he had associated with HARRY MOORE often in connection with League business, but that he had not seen him in the past year. He said he does not know anybody who had threatened MOORE and did not know MOORE had any enemies. He said he does not know the motive involved and has heard no pertinent information as to who was responsible for MOORE's death. HILL said he would notify the Bureau if he received any pertinent information.

WJJ:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM J. JAMISON on January 18 and 21, 1952 at Sebring, Florida:

BASIS: [redacted] of Progressive Voters League was interviewed re activities of HARRY T. MOORE.

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[redacted] Sebring, Florida, advised that he is known to many people as [redacted] and that his initials are often reversed and he is also known as [redacted] HART. He said that he is [redacted] on the Progressive Voters League of Florida, but that he has not been active in the organization on a statewide basis.

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He said he was acquainted with HARRY MOORE but was not a close associate of his and had not seen him for more than a year. He said he does not know of any enemies MOORE made. He said he does not know the motive for the killing or the persons responsible for it but that if he receives any pertinent information he will notify the Bureau.

WJJ:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM J. JAMISON on January 18, 1952 at Bartow, Florida:

BASIS: [REDACTED] of Progressive Voters League was interviewed re activities of HARRY T. MOORE.

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[REDACTED] Bartow, advised that he [REDACTED] of the Progressive Voters League of Florida and was well acquainted with HARRY MOORE. He said he had not seen MOORE for about a year and a half. [REDACTED] said that he did not know anyone who had made any threats against the MOORES and that he has no idea as to the motive or as to the person or persons involved. He said he would notify the Bureau if any pertinent information came to his attention.

RTN:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 7, 1952:

BASIS: THOMAS JOHNSON of Titusville, Florida, was interviewed re information of HARRY T. MOORE's activities in the Progressive Voters League of Florida.

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THOMAS LEE JOHNSON, 712 Union Street, Titusville, Florida, advised that he had known HARRY T. MOORE for approximately 16 years. He first met HARRY MOORE when MOORE was the Principal and teacher of the negro school in Mims, Florida. JOHNSON stated that his son attended the school and on occasions he and MOORE would get together and discuss his boy's progress. As a result of these meetings at school, JOHNSON advised that he and MOORE developed a warm friendship. He stated that in the recent past HARRY T. MOORE was the Secretary of the NAACP, the Progressive Voters League of Florida and a local organization in Titusville called the Citizens Civic League.

JOHNSON advised that HARRY MOORE was a leader among the negroes in Brevard County. He said the negro race as a rule were very bashful and they seldom spoke up and asked just what their rights were and what the law was. He stated MOORE acted as their spokesman and that MOORE was a very law abiding citizen and did not condone any acts outside the law. He stated that many times various negro families had problems along legal lines and they would come to HARRY MOORE and seek advice and that MOORE would advise them if he knew the particular laws that concerned these families and if he didn't know them, he would get the information through lawyer friends of his.

On many occasions he advised some of the colored boys in the area that they were getting out of line and cautioned them that whether the law was just or not it was the law. JOHNSON stated that HARRY MOORE was the only person in the area who stood up for his race and that MOORE was never arrogant about his position among the negroes and he was very amiable to both the white and colored.

JOHNSON stated that he, himself, did not work with HARRY MOORE in any way in conjunction with the NAACP but stated he did belong to that organization as well as the Citizens Civic League and the Progressive Voters League and that, in fact, he was Chairman of the local branch of the Progressive Voters League and this local branch covers the Mims and Titusville area.



RTN:JMS  
MM 44-270

JOHNSON advised that MOORE's death was a terrific shock to him as well as the colored families in Brevard County. They were all at a loss as to why anyone would use such methods against any person. He stated that since the bombing a group of the negro citizens in the area held an informal meeting, and attempted through conversation to determine what the reason was behind HARRY MOORE's death.

The first reason discussed was that of politics. They deduced that soon various candidates would state they would be running for the various offices and it was usually around this time that MOORE would send out form letters asking each candidate what their particular platform would be and at the sametime ask them how they stood on various issues pertinent to the negroes in Brevard County.

The group of people at this meeting felt that possibly some person or some organization, JOHNSON did not specifically name either, might have decided to do away with HARRY MOORE and at the same time frighten all the negroes in Brevard County. JOHNSON did not mention any particular election in the past that HARRY MOORE was interested in. He stated MOORE would contact the various candidates by mail and sometimes invite them to meetings held at various negro churches in the area and conduct a question and answer forum in an attempt to ascertain just how these candidates felt toward various problems. When he had received his answers to the questions and reported the candidates view at the informal forum, he would then decide which candidate intended to do the most for the negroes and the county in general and then did his best to have the negroes in the area vote along those lines. He said HARRY MOORE had considerable influence among the negro vote in the whole of Brevard County.

The second reason these people thought HARRY MOORE had been eliminated for was his intense activities in the Lake County incident. JOHNSON stated that MOORE felt that the two colored boys who were charged with rape were not given their equal rights under the law and he worked hard to help these boys out as best he could and as a result of this many of the white people in the State of Florida came to dislike HARRY MOORE.

JOHNSON felt, as did many of the people at this meeting, that possibly someone felt HARRY MOORE was trying to protect the guilty parties just because they were of the negro race. JOHNSON does not believe this was so because MOORE was always a believer in the law.

JOHNSON was discreetly questioned as to the past election in

WTN:JMS  
BT 44-270

which ANDREW FORTENBERRY ran against DAVE NISBET. JOHNSON stated that DAVE NISBET was supported by the negro vote in that election and that ANDREW FORTENBERRY was defeated. He stated it was not the negro vote alone that defeated FORTENBERRY but was the combination of votes by both white and colored. He recalled that during the campaign that the negroes had a meeting on Merritt Island, Florida and that [redacted] came into this meeting and broke it up. He stated that [redacted] was ordered to perform various tasks by the Commissioners and therefore his people thought that possibly FORTENBERRY had ordered [redacted] to break this meeting up. He stated he had no basis for that belief other than the fact [redacted] was ordered to do certain things by the Commissioners.

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He stated that HARRY MOORE was not present at this meeting but MOORE knew about the occasion and [redacted] interfering with it. He has heard some of his people state that possibly this had something to do with HARRY's death. JOHNSON made no comments as to what he thought about this incident in connection with MOORE's death.

He could not elaborate further on any other incidents occurring during any of the past elections but stated at one time they had invited two candidates for State Representative in this County to appear at one of their meetings. BILL ARKADE (phonetic) and RAY ROBERTS were questioned as to their views on certain issues and that if he recalled correctly, that the negroes backed ARKADE in the election. They were the only statements made by JOHNSON in connection with the elections.

JOHNSON went on to say he had heard that MOORE had been threatened once or twice through the mail and that these letters, to his understanding, came from county officials. He could not recall from where he received this information but he stated that HARRIETT MOORE could produce one of these letters but now that HARRIETT had died he was sure that one of these letters could be found in her effects somewhere.

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He stated that although on some of the work that MOORE performed there had been some question by the whites, that as a rule the colored and white people got along very well in Brevard County. He cited a meeting this past summer between a [redacted] HARRY MOORE and himself in regard to the negro school. [redacted] according to JOHNSON, was the Trustee of the negro schools at that time. He said that this meeting was a very warm and friendly occasion, that he could not want a better association between white and colored. He said they discussed their problems on an open and frank basis and came to an agreeable understanding of the issues of the school at that time.

RTN:JMS  
MM 44-270

In an effort to elaborate on MOORE's ability to get along with the various officials, JOHNSON cited the meeting between HARRY MOORE and Governor FULLER WARREN. He stated that when MOORE visited the Governor his people felt that the Governor endorsed HARRY MOORE and at the same time endorsed the Progressive Voters League. As he understood, everyone was getting along all right and that no one had any particular dislike for anyone else.

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JOHNSON stated that on January 6, 1952 he was talking with a colored man named [redacted] who works for [redacted] in the groves around Mims. [redacted] stated that JOHNSON in their discussion about the bombing, that he was looking for some information to "seep out" as to who killed HARRY MOORE and his wife. JOHNSON stated that [redacted] was very cautious about his statements and that therefore he did not press him as to where this information would come from but advised that [redacted] assured him that when he had any information he would relay it on to JOHNSON.

JOHNSON was asked if he thought it advisable to approach [redacted] at this time and JOHNSON stated that he was afraid the colored people in the whole area around Mims are badly frightened at giving information directly to the police and he felt they might be hesitant to give this information to the FBI. However, he said that possibly [redacted] would talk to FBI Agents.

JOHNSON, in an effort to explain the fear of his people mentioned two persons who said they saw two automobiles in the grove in front of MOORE's house Christmas evening, prior to the explosion but when Agents had interviewed these two men they said they knew nothing about this incident.

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JOHNSON went on to say that his people would no doubt have future meetings and he advised that should he hear any information which might be of help to the investigation of this case he could get in touch with the FBI immediately.

It is believed that the two persons who allegedly saw the automobiles in the grove in front of MOORE's house are [redacted] [redacted] who have been interviewed by the writers with negative results.

WJJ:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM J. JAMISON on January 16, 1952 at Bartow, Florida:

BASIS: Interview of [redacted] Bartow, Florida, active in Progressive Voters League, concerning MOORE's activities.

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[redacted] Negro Quarters, Bartow, Florida, advised that he [redacted] of the Progressive Voters League. He said that he has discussed the bombings with various persons, but that he has heard no definite information blaming any individual or group for the bombing.

[redacted] said that he has thought about the case considerably and is unable to think of what motive might be involved. He suggested that all persons closely associated with the MOORES immediately prior to the bombing be interviewed for the purpose of determining whether anything had occurred that would have led to such violent action. He said that he will contact the Bureau if any pertinent information should come to his attention.

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RTN:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 7, 1952.

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BASIS: [redacted]  
Mims, Florida had [redacted] the day before  
the explosion and the [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] Mims, Florida, brother of [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that the day before  
HARRY T. MOORE was killed [redacted] called him [redacted] and asked  
him if he would come down to [redacted]

[redacted] to the south of his residence. [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that he immediately went [redacted] by traveling  
over the South Dixie Highway and taking the road south of HARRY T. MOORE's  
house. Thereby he did not pass directly in front of MOORE's residence. He  
stated [redacted] He stated he had [redacted]  
[redacted] and did not even see MOORE around  
the house. He advised that immediately upon [redacted]  
[redacted] He saw no strangers around the MOORE residence at the  
time nor did he see anything that aroused his suspicion.  
Just as he was about to leave [redacted]

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[redacted] They joked with one another  
and [redacted] then advised  
he returned to [redacted] seeing no one on the way back into Mims. [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that he was not in town the night of the explosion; that he and  
some friends were along the St. Johns river hunting and fishing. He  
advised that he did not know of the explosion until the next day and that  
around 11:00 or 11:30 on December 26, 1951, he had gone down to take  
a look at MOORE's house.

He advised that he had not dealt directly with HARRY T.  
MOORE [redacted] in  
Mims, Florida and that he could remember that MOORE was [redacted]  
and that whenever he had [redacted]  
He stated he had never heard anyone say anything against HARRY T. MOORE  
and felt that he was well liked in the Mims area by both the Negro and  
white people.

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RTN:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 7, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted] had stated that [redacted] to him in a juke joint that he saw automobiles parked in the grove on Christmas night prior to the bombing.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, advised that he and his [redacted] were in an automobile with [redacted] on Christmas afternoon and Christmas night. [redacted] said he had driven them up to Daytona where he had picked up a date and that they had spent the afternoon and early evening in Daytona and had returned to Titusville, Florida on Christmas night at 11:30 PM. They remained in Titusville till about 12:00 that night and then returned home. He stated that he knew nothing of the blast until the next morning. When confronted with the information about his seeing two automobiles in the grove in front of MOORE's house, [redacted] said that was wrong information and that it would have been impossible for him to have seen anything in front of MOORE's house before the explosion because he had not returned to Titusville until 11:30 that night and he had since learned that the bombing occurred around 10:15 PM. He advised that he did not use the old Dixie Highway at all Christmas day. He stated that in his trip to Daytona and then back to Titusville he had done all his traveling on U. S. Highway #1. He insisted that he had not seen any strange automobiles in the area of MOORE's house and could not imagine where the interviewing Agents had received such information.

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[redacted] advised that he had known HARRY T. MOORE for a number of years, but could not recall how many. He advised that HARRY T. MOORE was a school teacher and the principal of the Negro School at the time that he had attended. He advised he knew nothing about the explosion nor had any idea who might have done it. He said that MOORE was well liked by the colored and white folks in the Mims area.

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[redacted] went on to say that if he did know anything about the bombing he would not be afraid to tell the FBI but stated he knew nothing and could be of no help.

RTN:msf

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 6, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted]

[redacted] at Mims and was to be interviewed to determine whether or not anyone had inquired as to the whereabouts of MOORE's residence and any information regarding the bombing of MOORE's residence.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, advised that he was 18 years old and [redacted] stated that he had worked for the [redacted] at Mims. [redacted] stated that the night of the explosion he was at a movie at Cocoa, Florida and that after the movie he drove back to his home at Mims in his father's pick-up truck, and that from Titusville on to his home which is located about three-fourths of a mile southeast of MOORE's residence he had taken the old Dixie Highway. He advised that a boy named [redacted] were with him.

[redacted] stated that while driving from Titusville to his home about 10:30 or 11:00 at night of instant explosion he had gone up the old Dixie Highway but he had not seen nor passed any automobiles or people walking along the highway. He stated that he had not heard the blast. When he reached the road that turned to his house, he proceeded slowly as it is a rough road. He stated that on this road he had not seen anyone walking nor had he passed any automobiles. When he arrived at home he had entered his house and was changing his clothes before going to work at the Service Station that night when Deputy Sheriff [redacted] drove up and asked him if he had heard an explosion. He told [redacted] that he did not and asked [redacted] what it was all about. [redacted] merely stated that an explosion had occurred somewhere around that area and he was attempting to locate it, at which time he, [redacted] drove off. He advised that after he changed his clothes he and [redacted] drove back in towards Mims. He could not recall at what time he went to Mims, but he remembered going over Highway #1, and not the Old Dixie Highway. When he got to work someone said that MOORE's house had been bombed. He advised that he later went down and looked at the place but did not stay long and then returned to work. He could not remember what time he had visited the scene of instant explosion.

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MM 44-270

He stated that he had never heard anyone say anything against HARRY T. MOORE and could not imagine who could do such a thing.

PCG:JMS  
MI 107-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ERIC C. CLINKSCALES and JOHN A. HANLEY on January 7, 1952:

**BASIS:** Inquiry of residents in the residential area immediately north of the MOORE home.

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[redacted] previously contacted, advised that during the past few days he talked with numerous persons both white and colored but had been unable to develop any information from persons he had talked to regarding instant bombing. He volunteered most of these people expressed the opinion no one from Mims or vicinity had perpetrated the bombing but believed it was done by someone outside and away from Mims.

[redacted] U. S. Highway #1, in the north part of Mims, advised he has lived in this vicinity for the past 20 years. He stated a good relationship has existed here between the white and colored people and he knew of no incidents, disturbances or friction between white and colored residents here. He stated he has known HARRY MOORE for a number of years but knew little of MOORE's activities since MOORE taught school at Mims.

[redacted] had heard that MOORE was quite active in the NAACP and since instant bombing had learned that he was quite active in the Progressive Voters League. He stated he knew MOORE had been quite active during previous political campaigns in Brevard County; knew that MOORE had been active in the registration of negro voters at Mims; that he had observed MOORE during the 1950 elections visiting the polls located near his place and had observed numerous colored residents of Mims contacting MOORE immediately before going to the poll to vote. In view of this he considered MOORE quite active and influential in political matters and expressed his opinion that local negro voters had sought and followed MOORE's advice in their voting.

[redacted] stated that during and since the campaign and election of DALE HISEBET for County Commissioner and the defeat of former Commissioner A. FORTENBERRY, who has served for 20 odd years in that capacity, he has heard no one make any statements or threats against MOORE or any other colored residents in Mims and that although the feeling during the campaign was rather strong, he knew of no efforts on the part of FORTENBERRY or his supporters to gain reprisal for FORTENBERRY's defeat.

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MI 44-270

[redacted] concluded he did not believe any of the local residents know or had any idea who had perpetrated instant bombing as persons to whom he has talked are reluctant to discuss instant bombing. He stated their reluctance apparently does not stem from fear but mainly from their lack of knowledge of the incident or reasons behind it. [redacted] volunteered to furnish to Bureau Agents any information coming to his attention which might shed any light on the bombing or as to the identity of persons responsible.

[redacted] Mims, residents of Kingsport, Tennessee and Gate City, Virginia, who have spent the past five winters vacationing at Mims, advised they arrived at Mims on the Saturday before Christmas, December 22, 1951. The [redacted] are residing in [redacted]

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[redacted] the Old Dixie Highway, the latter running in front of the MOORE residence.

They advised they did not know MOORE or his wife, DORIS BERT, that to their knowledge they had never seen the MOORES, that during their stays in the past 5 years at Mims they had never heard anyone, white or colored, express any feeling of resentment or ill will toward MOORE.

They advised on Christmas day and until after midnight that night they had been visiting friends in Titusville, Florida and had not heard the explosion at the MOORE residence. They know nothing of this explosion until the following morning when told by passersby of the explosion.

[redacted] advised that since he did not know the victims he had not been to the scene of the explosion and since he had not been home during Christmas day he had observed nothing of a suspicious nature.

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He stated during the two days preceding Christmas day he had observed no strange persons or automobiles in that vicinity which aroused his suspicions, commenting that since he had just arrived at Mims he was not too well acquainted with other residents in this neighborhood. [redacted] who spends most of his time fishing and relaxing in this area, agreed to furnish to Bureau Agents any information coming to his attention regarding instant bombing.

Mr. and Mrs. L. O. HARRELL, who reside on the Old Dixie Highway approximately one mile south of the MOORE residence, advised they have lived here for over 30 years. They stated they knew HARRY MOORE when he taught school at Mims but during the past 6 or 7 years they have seen very little of MOORE and his wife and know nothing of MOORE's activities during that period.

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RM 44-270

Mr. HARRELL, night watchman at the Nevins Packing House, advised he was on duty at the packing house Christmas night and because of the noise of machinery there had not heard the explosion. He knew nothing of the bombing until advised later that night by friends. HARRELL stated he visited the MOORE residence and observed the condition of the house after the explosion but did not make a close inspection of the explosion scene. This visit was at about 9 A.M. Wednesday, December 26, 1951.

Both Mr. and Mrs. HARRELL advised they were at home on Christmas day; that they observed no strange persons or automobiles in that vicinity; that they know of no enemies of the victims and had heard no one express any threats or hard feelings against the victims. They advised they have not talked to many residents of the area since instant bombing and have heard no persons express their feelings regarding the perpetrator of the bombing. They pledged every cooperation in furnishing to Bureau Agents any information coming to their attention in this regard.

PCC:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN A. HANLEY and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 8 and 9, 1952:

BASIS: Interview of residents in neighborhood immediately north of HARRY T. MOORE residence at Mims, Florida.

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FLOYD S. SMITH, General Delivery, Mims, Florida and A. A. SMITH, a cousin, who is visiting here from his residence at 2059 Inglehart Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, were separately interviewed. These individuals advised they were retired from business in the north and were presently visiting the Mims area, having arrived in Mims several weeks prior to Christmas, 1951.

They stated they were not acquainted with local conditions as they existed in Mims and that they were unacquainted with victims HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE. Both of these individuals advised they heard the blast which occasioned the death of the victims but that they were unaware of the origin thereof and were unable to furnish any information which would tend to establish the persons responsible for setting off the explosion. Both were cooperative and stated they would furnish any information which might come into their possession relative to the explosion and the cause thereof.

[redacted] Mims, Florida, stated he and his wife came to Mims approximately three years ago from Appalachicola, Florida; that since his arrival in this area he has been employed as a laborer and fruit picker and is presently employed as a commercial fisherman for [redacted] advised that since his arrival in this area he has had no contact with either of the victims and that he had no information which would reflect upon this investigation.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, stated he has resided in Mims, Florida for a period of approximately 26 years and is well acquainted with most of the inhabitants of this area. He stated that up to recently he was employed as a [redacted] which route extends in the vicinity of Titusville and Oak Hill, Florida.

He added that he had come in contact with HARRY MOORE on numerous occasions and was personally acquainted with members of his family and the family of his wife, HARRIETT SIMMS MOORE. He indicated they were well regarded in the area but that some of the local inhabitants regarded HARRY's activities with suspicion. He indicated he knew several years before the fatal explosion that HARRY was engaged in activities on behalf of the NAACP

PCC:JMS  
MM 44-270

and that he had heard that MOORE was extremely active on behalf of the defendants in the Groveland case. He stated the people of Mims felt that HARRY was perhaps engaging in activities which did not concern him and that he was not regarded as one of the peace loving negroes in the community. He stated he had never heard that MOORE had actively agitated any cause on behalf of the negro race but he indicated that the better class of white residents resented MOORE's activities. He indicated that this resentment, however, was not deep enough to cause any local resident to go to the extreme of bombing MOORE's residence or killing him.

[redacted]  
the latter of whom is attached to the U. S. Army Paratroopers located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, were separately interviewed for any information they could furnish relative to the bombing of the residence of HARRY MOORE. None of these individuals were able to furnish any information which would be of assistance in this investigation, the [redacted] having returned to Mims only several weeks ago.

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[redacted] added that at the time of the explosion he had not retired and was in the kitchen with his mother and when they heard the blast he immediately ran out to his car and proceeded to the truck stop located in the center portion of the village. He indicated that it was quite foggy at that time and that it was necessary for him to lean his head out of the window while driving his car. He stated upon arrival at the truck stop he contacted several persons who had heard the explosion but observed no damage there.

He stated he thereafter proceeded in a southerly direction on U. S. #1 and turned right where the Old Dixie Highway enters U. S. #1. He stated he thereafter proceeded west for one block and then turned north toward his home. He explained that during this entire time he did not observe any other cars traveling in the vicinity. All the [redacted] family were very cooperative.

[redacted]  
the latter employed as a clerk at [redacted] Titusville, Florida, but who resides in Mims, Florida, advised that they were at their home all day Christmas as well as that night. [redacted] stated they had retired to bed and did not hear the explosion.

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[redacted] stated she was reading at the time, and upon hearing the blast went out into her yard where she observed nothing except that lights were on in the homes of several neighbors and they appeared to be

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looking for the cause of the blast. [redacted] advised that she did not know that the blast occurred at HARRY T. MOORE's residence until the following morning. She stated she has known HARRY MOORE for several years, having gotten acquainted with MOORE at the time she [redacted] in Mims.

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[redacted] stated she knew HARRY T. MOORE only by sight but her husband stated that he has known HARRY MOORE for 15 years or longer, as he was [redacted] at the time HARRY MOORE taught school at Mims.

[redacted] advised that as best he could recall, MOORE had resigned as a school teacher or principal of the local colored school and had not been fired by the School Board. He stated that to the best of his knowledge MOORE is well regarded by both white and colored residents. He was unable to furnish any information regarding MOORE's activity during political campaigns in recent years. He did state that he know MOORE had been active in the NAACP; that he had heard that MOORE worked actively in behalf of the negroes involved in the "Groveland case"; but stated to his knowledge no one in Mims or vicinity had any hard feelings toward MOORE and that he had never heard any statements made by local residents against MOORE and his activity.

[redacted] stated that he employs several local negroes in his [redacted] work but that he has not heard these employees discuss the bombing of MOORE's residence; has not heard them express any opinions in this regard; that, in fact, when he made some mention of the incident in their presence they appeared to "clam up" without saying anything about it.

[redacted] voiced the opinion that there is no one residing in Mims or vicinity whom he considered smart or capable enough to have perpetrated instant explosion or who would have had the knowledge or experience in handling explosives to have committed the blasting. He advised he has not visited MOORE's residence since the incident and could furnish no information as to the identity of the persons who committed this act or the reason behind it.

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[redacted] stated he had considered to himself the possibility that the incident had been committed by some subversive elements to inspire racial differences and to arouse emotions within the State of Florida. He could offer no further basis or explanation in this regard.

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[redacted] who is employed as [redacted] advised she heard the blast on the evening of December 25, 1951 but was unable to furnish any information concerning the cause of the blast. [redacted] advised there was considerable speculation in the negro quarters concerning the cause but was unable or unwilling to furnish any information.

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She advised she was personally acquainted with Professor MOORE and considered him to be an outstanding man but added she did not know anything about his activities.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McLENDON, residents of Mims for the past 27 years, and their son, who resides next door, [redacted] and his wife, advised they were all acquainted with victim HARRY T. MOORE only by sight. They advised that to their knowledge MOORE was well regarded locally. They know nothing of his activities since the time he taught school in Mims until after his death when they learned through newspapers that he had been active in work of the NAACP.

They all advised they were in and around the McLENDON residences on Christmas day but had noted no strange automobiles or strange persons at that time or during the preceding days. They advised that no one has ever made inquiry of them regarding victim MOORE or his place of residence.

J. H. McLENDON, employed at the Blue Goose Packing House, advised that the incident is discussed very little by employees at the packing house; that he has heard no one mention the incident who indicated having any knowledge of the incident; and that employees there had advanced no theories or conclusions as to the reason for the blasting or the identity of the persons perpetrating the crime.

[redacted] residents of Mims, Florida, for the past five years and formerly of South Carolina, advised that they had been at home during Christmas day but had observed no strange automobiles or individuals in the area.

[redacted] advised she was at home with the children Christmas night and heard the explosion but did not leave the house to make any inquiries. [redacted] stated that he returned home from uptown shortly after the explosion and did not learn the details of the explosion until the following day. They advised they did not know HARRY T. MOORE and did not recall ever having seen him. They advised no one had ever made inquiries of them as to MOORE's place of residence or of his whereabouts and had such inquiries been made [redacted] stated she could not have furnished directions to the Moore residence.

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[redacted], a field foreman employed by [redacted] advised that in his daily work he has been unable to obtain any information as to the identity of persons perpetrating this crime or the reason behind it. He advised that the matter is discussed very little by the residents of Mims and no theories have been advanced in his presence as to the cause of the explosion.

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Mrs. MARY NICHOLSON, Box 75, Mims, a resident of Mims since 1917, advised that to her knowledge a good relationship exists between the white and colored people of Mims. She stated she knew HARRY T. MOORE by sight several years ago; that she has not seen him in several years and knew nothing of his activities or whereabouts during recent years.

She stated she was at home on Christmas day but had observed no strangers or strange automobiles of a suspicious nature; that she heard the blast that evening after she had retired but did not leave her residence to make inquiries as to the source or cause of the explosion. She could furnish no further information regarding the incident.

Her invalid sister, Miss LILLIAN RAULERSON, a resident of Mrs. NICHOLSON's home, who reportedly never goes outside the house, was not interviewed.

Mrs. W. A. GREEN, resident of Mims for thirty odd years, advised that she has known HARRY T. MOORE for many years, was fairly well acquainted with HARRIETT MOORE as she formerly employed HARRIETT as a maid and that she had been personally acquainted with HARRIETT's mother, ANNIE SIMMS for many years. She advised ANNIE and her late husband, DAVE SIMMS, had been well regarded and highly respected by most all of the older white residents of Mims as DAVE sold vegetables throughout the community during most of his lifetime.

Mrs. GREEN stated she has known nothing of HARRY MOORE's activities during the past three or four years, since he quit teaching school at Mims. She stated she did not know until several months ago that the victims were not residing full time at the MOORE residence in Mims. She did not know until after HARRY MOORE's death that he had been engaged in political activities throughout Brevard County and the State of Florida and had only heard that HARRY MOORE took an active part in the NAACP.

Mrs. GREEN did recall that a number of the local negroes had registered and voted in the 1950 elections and recalled hearing that HARRY T. MOORE had been active in promoting registration among the colored people and in urging them to exercise their voting privilege. She stated, however,

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she had never heard any one in Mims make any statement or threat against HARRY T. MOORE because of this or any other activity; stated that she knew of no one in Mims or elsewhere who felt hard enough against MOORE to want to cause him any harm and voiced her opinion that the persons responsible for the blasting of MOORE's residence were not from Mims or vicinity. She could furnish no further information regarding the incident.

LUCY STRICKLAND, who has lived in the colored quarters on the east side of Mims for the past 35 years and whose husband, L. A. STRICKLAND, has worked during that time as a citrus grove laborer, advised she has known and been personally acquainted with the victims, HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE, for many years. She stated that MOORE enjoyed a good reputation among colored residents in Mims; that MOORE was considered a leader of the local colored people who respected MOORE's intelligence and ability as a leader.

She advised she knew of no one, colored or white, who had any feelings against MOORE that would have resulted in the bombing incident, adding that she had never heard any threats made against MOORE or his activities. She advised that none of the local colored people have discussed the incident in her presence and that she does not believe any of the local colored people are connected in any way with the incident or that they knew anything at all as to the reason behind it or the persons who perpetrated this crime. LUCY volunteered any information which may come to her attention from any of the local colored residents, which might be of value in this investigation.

[redacted] Mims, who receives her mail at [redacted] [redacted] Titusville, Florida, advised she has resided in Mims practically all of her life except for a short period of time in 1946 when she and her deceased husband moved to Titusville, Florida. She indicated she was personally acquainted with both HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE and that she regarded them highly. She stated HARRIETT was employed by her family as a cook and domestic for several years, quite sometime ago and that as a result of this contact she was very fond of HARRIETT.

She stated HARRY formerly taught in the Mims colored schools and also in the colored schools of Titusville. She indicated that HARRY was very active in organizations set up for the amelioration or betterment of negroes in this area and in other portions of the State.

In this connection, [redacted] stated she was aware that HARRY was an active State officer in the NAACP and that he was also active in

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political affairs in Brevard County. [ ] stated she had subsequently learned that HARRY was active in the advance of the negroes who were on trial for rape in Groveland, Florida. She added that many of the people in Mims were unaware of his political and racial activities and that as a result, little information would probably be received.

She stated those residents who were aware of his activities greatly resented his activity and always figured that he was trying to stir up trouble in the negro sections. [ ] stated she did not feel that these activities and the resentment which the local inhabitants felt was deep enough to cause any of them to attempt to assassinate him. She felt that the feeling was only of resentment rather than one of revenge and not deep enough to cause any personal harm to him.

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[ ] stated she was at home on Christmas evening at the time the MOORE home was blasted and that shortly after the occurrence thereof she went to the front door of her home and attempted to see if any fire resulted from the blast. She stated she stayed outdoors for a period of approximately 10 minutes during which time she did not observe any activity and heard nothing in addition.

[ ] in conclusion, added that the relations between the races in Mims was considered satisfactory and she had never heard any individual make any threats on the life of either of the victims. She stated that the parents of both victims had resided in this area for some time and she had never heard any derogatory statements concerning them. During the course of the entire interview [ ] was extremely cooperative.

Upon recontacting [ ] Mims, who furnished information to the effect that [ ] who has resided in Mims for several months had reportedly visited several times with victim HARRY T. MOORE while in Mims. [ ] stated this old man, reportedly a school teacher, was considered intelligent but rather peculiar. He could furnish no further information in this regard except that this individual is reportedly now living in a house trailer at [ ] near Titusville, Florida.

ORRIN CARLE, age 77, who resides in an old car at Johnson's Junk Yard, just south of the airport on the Old Dixie Highway near Titusville, upon interview advised that he formerly owned considerable real estate on the upper east coast of Florida but upon losing all of his wealth and property had sought seclusion in Mims. He denied having known victim HARRY T. MOORE or ever having visited him at Mims.

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MM 44 270

He stated he had visited and talked on several occasions with a colored preacher in Mims, whose name he does not recall. CARLE stated that to his knowledge a good relationship existed between the white and colored people of Mims and that since the explosion resulting in MOORE's death he has not seen or heard anything which would tend to identify persons responsible for MOORE's death or indicating the reason therefore. He was unable to furnish any additional information in this regard.

[redacted] advised that CARLE lives there and serves as handyman, taking care of the place during the absence of [redacted]. He stated that to his knowledge CARLE know nothing of instant bombing and that he, [redacted] in making contacts during his daily work, has not received any information as to the cause of the bombing or the identity of the person responsible for it.

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[redacted] did not know victim HARRY T. MOORE and concluded that he did not know of any persons in Titusville, Mims or vicinity who had any feelings against MOORE which might cause them to do MOORE any harm.

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MA 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents Prue C. CLINKSCALES and JOHN A. HANLEY on January 9 and 10, 1952:

BAIS: Interview with residents in the neighborhood immediately north of the HARRY T. MOORE residence, Mims, Florida.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, advised they have lived in and around Mims most of their lives, in their present residence for the past three years; that they knew HARRY T. MOORE by sight but were not personally acquainted with him; knew nothing of his activities in Mims or elsewhere during recent years; and did not know whether he spent his full time at his residence in Mims.

They advised they were at home Christmas day and that night; that they had seen no suspicious persons in the neighborhood that day or during preceding days; that they heard the explosion but [redacted] surmised that the explosion was caused by a blowout of one of his truck tires parked outside his residence.

[redacted] upon hearing the explosion went outside her front door but saw no one stirring and no cars passing. They could furnish no further information as to the persons responsible for the explosion or the reason behind it.

[redacted] advised they have lived in Brevard and Volusia Counties for the past 28 years, in their present residence for two years. [redacted] did not know HARRY T. MOORE but her husband advised he knew him by sight.

[redacted] a citrus workers foreman, advised that he knew nothing of MOORE's activities during recent years; did not know and has not heard of any ill feeling toward MOORE; and although he employs several negro laborers, has heard them discuss the matter very little and offer no reason or explanation for MOORE's death or the bombing of his house.

[redacted] Mims, resident of this community for the past eight years, advised they had seen no strange cars or persons in the neighborhood on Christmas day or preceding days.

[redacted] advised he knew MOORE from [redacted] during recent years; stated he has heard of no statements or threats against MOORE and knows of no one who resented

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MOORE or his activities. He added that during his daily contacts he has heard no reason or explanation offered for the explosion and could furnish no further information of value in this regard.

All the above individuals expressed regret of the incident and pledged their cooperation in furnishing any information coming to their attention.

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MM 44-270

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRED E. GORDON on January 17, 1952:

BASIS: Interview [redacted] a resident of the Mims, Florida area and an ex-Klansman of the Orlando Klavern.

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[redacted] was located and interviewed at his residence address in Mims, Florida, at which time he advised he is employed by the [redacted] as a salesman. According to [redacted] and is presently concentrating his work on the east coast of Florida.

[redacted] advised that he was born in Sanford, Florida after which time his family moved to Oviedo, Florida and he spent most of his boyhood days in the Oviedo area. According to [redacted] he moved back to Sanford, Florida in later years where he went into business and subsequently moved from Sanford to Orlando, Florida and approximately three years ago moved to Mims, Florida.

[redacted] admitted he was a former member of the Klan although he did not say exactly where and pointed out that since the Mims bombing he was talking to a man by the name of [redacted] (phonetic) about the bombing. According to [redacted] he asked this individual if one of the Klan possibly was responsible and this individual's reply was no, that he thought it came from their own organization.

[redacted] advised along this same trend of thought, that it was his theory that the perpetrators of the Mims bombing came from within their own organization named the NAACP.

[redacted] recounted an incident that happened shortly after he came to the Mims, Florida, area which had to do with a colored boy who was then working for him. As [redacted] explained, this colored boy had approached him one day and asked if he didn't think he was as good as he was, to which [redacted] replied "Hell no, you no good s-c-b, get your a-- off my place immediately." As [redacted] put it, the negroes are definitely not equal to the whites and it has always been his feeling that a negro and a mule are just work horses.

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When asked if he had heard the bombing of HARRY MOORE's home, he quickly replied, laughingly, that he had an alibi for that too. As [redacted] went on to explain then, he said he had taken his young boy hunting Christmas

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MM 44-270

afternoon and had stayed that evening at [redacted] It was not until [redacted] came to town the next day, December 26, 1951 and upon his return told him about the bombing that he knew anything about it.

It might be pointed out at this time that at this point in the interview when [redacted] was giving his activities as above, his young son interrupted saying that that wasn't just the way it was and it was noticeable that [redacted] became quite frustrated to the point of getting red in the face.

[redacted] advised he did not know BROOKLYN or BELVIN by name, however, stated he might know them by sight inasmuch as he knew many people in the State of Florida through his contacts with the citrus people.

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[redacted] stated he was not personally acquainted with MOORE although he did know him by sight. Furthermore that he had never heard of any of MOORE's anti-Klan speeches although he had heard he was very active in Lake County relative to the Groveland case.

[redacted] stated that he was personally acquainted with Sheriff WILLIS McCALL and had occasion recently, since the bombing, to talk with McCALL. As [redacted] explained, he and McCALL kidded about the bombing.

Regarding MOORE's activities, [redacted] of his had mentioned to him at one time about MOORE collecting donations from the negroes and putting it in his own pocket.

[redacted] advised that in his opinion dynamite was not used in blasting the MOORE home. His reasoning for this being that late in the afternoon of December 26, 1951 he had visited the scene and recalled from his experience with dynamite as a boy that there was no dynamite odor present which is the case when dynamite is used.

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As [redacted] concluded, he would like to see the bombing cleared up and would help the FBI "If it did not involve one of his friends." As [redacted] stated, he had bet some individual even money that the case would never be unraveled.

[redacted] stated that in his opinion this bombing and the publicity that followed was causing the negroes a lot of unjustified sympathy.

It was noted that [redacted] had a phone in his residence.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 6, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted] was interviewed as the result of [redacted] [redacted] give us some information about MOORE as he has known him for quite a number of years.

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[redacted] lives in the Negro quarters in Mims, Florida and advised that on the night of the explosion he was on his way home after having gone to the store. He said he did not know exactly what time it was that the blast occurred, however he felt a terrific shock and he wondered just what had happened. Upon arriving home his niece called him and told him that Professor MOORE's home had been bombed. [redacted] advised that he thought that his niece might have exaggerated a little, however other people in the neighborhood began talking about it so he called [redacted] and was advised that MOORE's home had been bombed and that MOORE and his wife were taken to the Sanford Hospital and were in pretty bad shape. [redacted] then walked down to the MOORE residence and estimated that he arrived there about 3:00 AM and upon his arrival he saw [redacted] States Attorney HUBERT GRIGGS and Sheriff WILLIAMS on the scene. [redacted] said that he looked into the bedroom in which the victim's were sleeping and he observed the crater left by the explosion. He immediately surmised that it was not dynamite used because the amount of damage to the house was not balanced with the hole in the ground. [redacted] qualified himself by saying that he had used dynamite in clearing land blasting stumps for many years and that it was his experience that dynamite blew against resistance and in this case it would be the ground. He stated that an awful lot of dynamite would be required to do that much damage to the house and a comparable hole in the ground would be left by the explosion. He said, he could see no fragments of wrapping paper nor could he smell the usual odor left by dynamite. He advised it might have been TNT but that he did not know what the reaction of TNT was whether it left an odor or whether it blasted against pressure.

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[redacted] advised that he has known HARRY T. MOORE for 20 some odd years and that he knew him to be the Secretary for the NAACP but he understood that MOORE quit the organization a week before he was killed. He also stated that he knew MOORE was Secretary to the Progressive Voters League. [redacted] advised that MOORE did not have any money and as far as he could learn he did not know where MOORE's income came from. He went on

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to say that HARRY T. MOORE got along with everyone in the community and that he was respected by the Negroes as well as the whites. He was a man who kept his troubles to himself and to [redacted] knowledge seldom mentioned his troubles to his wife. [redacted] advised that he had talked with a few of the Negroes in the Community and a lot of them feel that MOORE's activity in the Groveland case might have had something to do with his death.

[redacted] stated that he had talked to [redacted] [redacted] was supposed to have seen a couple of automobiles parked in the grove in front of HARRY T. MOORE's house prior to the explosion on Christmas night. [redacted] if he saw such a thing and [redacted] told him that he was not going to say that he did see the automobiles in the grove and he was not going to say that he did not. [redacted] went on to say that [redacted] was with [redacted] in an automobile that night. That is as much as he could learn from [redacted]

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[redacted] advised that he works in the groves around Mims and he is in contact with quite a few of the people in the Negro quarters day in and day out and it is his opinion that the people are scared to death. Some of them tell him that they are afraid to go to sleep at night. He further stated that some of them would be afraid to tell the truth if they knew it for fear of some sort of reprisal, however, [redacted] advised the interviewing Agents that he held no fear of talking to the FBI and that he would attempt to find out all he can from his people and promised that if he discovered anything of value he would get in touch with the Agents and let them know.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 6, 1952.

BASTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the night of instant explosion and [REDACTED] was supposed to have seen two cars in the grove in front of MOORE's house prior to the explosion.

[REDACTED] Mims, Florida, advised he was [REDACTED] years old and worked for [REDACTED] who owns groves north of Mims. [REDACTED] said that he was in Titusville at the time of the explosion and had returned at about 2:30 AM that night. He stated that he did not know anything about the explosion until the next morning. He said that he was with [REDACTED] who had just arrived in Mims for a short vacation coming here from Slaton, Texas. He advised that [REDACTED] was driving the car from Titusville to Mims and stated that they had not seen any automobiles in the grove in front of MOORE's residence and that they had not been anywhere near MOORE's residence that day and further advised that he did not know anything about who killed HARRY T. MOORE and his wife or why they were killed. He insisted that they had not passed in front of the MOORE residence at any time during Christmas night or day.

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[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was his wife from whom he had separated for a couple of years and that [REDACTED] was his present wife with whom he is about to separate. He said that [REDACTED] was the one in the car not [REDACTED] refused to admit any knowledge of suspicious automobiles in the Mims area and especially near the victims' residence. He stated that he knew nothing more about the incident and said that his connection with HARRY T. MOORE was through the NAACP, that HARRY T. MOORE had paid for his initial application for membership in the NAACP and continued to pay the dues for [REDACTED] in the NAACP. He went on to state that it never cost him any money to belong to the NAACP as HARRY T. MOORE paid for it. [REDACTED] advised that he is no longer a member of the NAACP.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 6, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted]  
in Mims and lives approximately [redacted]  
of the victims' home.

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[redacted] advised that he [redacted] HARRIETT MOORE and that he lives about [redacted] of the MOORE residence and on the night of the instant explosion he was at a friend's house playing cards and he did not hear the blast. He stated that he did not know HARRY T. MOORE's home had been blown up, nor that MOORE had been killed until a young fellow called [redacted] passed by the friend's house and announced that MOORE's home had been bombed. [redacted] stated he did not know what [redacted] real name was. He advised that it was about midnight when the young boy came by and told them of the explosion. [redacted] said that a few years ago he worked for Mr. MOORE in his grove, but that he did not work for MOORE for a couple of years. He advised that he had previously worked for the [redacted] in Mims but that now he works for [redacted] in Titusville. [redacted] stated that he has never gone to the victims' residence to view the results of the explosion and that he has never discussed the explosion with anybody. When asked if he attended the funeral of HARRY T. MOORE, he stated no and gave no reason other than saying that HARRY's wife [redacted] but he just did not go to the funeral. [redacted] stated that he was aware of MOORE's NAACP activity but he did not know that MOORE was so active in the Progressive Voters League until after the bombing. [redacted] went on to state that he did not know why HARRY T. MOORE was killed and had no suggestion as to who might have perpetrated the crime. He related that he has seen no strangers in and around the area and in fact has not been near MOORE's house in the past year.

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MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN A. HANLEY and PRUE C. CLINKOCALLES on January 9 and 10, 1952:

BASIS: As result of information furnished by [redacted] to the effect ANNIE SIMMS had been contacted by two unknown white men during September, 1951 relative to the whereabouts of HARRY MOORE, the following investigation was conducted.

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[redacted] who lives on [redacted] approximately [redacted] of the MOORE residence and his wife, [redacted] were reinterviewed for any additional information they might possess concerning the identity of the persons responsible for the explosion. [redacted] advised he had had an opportunity to discuss this matter with certain of the other negro residents in Mims but had been unable to obtain any information of value. He indicated it is the general tendency of most of the colored persons in this area to hesitate to discuss the incident and particularly because [redacted] with the MOORE family.

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[redacted] added, however, that he had recently been advised by a member of the [redacted] family to the effect they had heard that ANNIE SIMMS, the mother of victim HARRIETT MOORE, had been contacted sometime during the past summer by two unknown individuals who represented themselves to be members of the School Board of an adjoining county. He indicated this information reflected that ANNIE SIMMS refused to turn this information over to the unknown individuals because of their shabby appearance and professed ignorance of MOORE's whereabouts.

He stated that [redacted] would have more specific information concerning this alleged visit. [redacted] reiterated a great deal of the information furnished at time of original contact as did [redacted]. Both individuals professed that the motivating factor in the death of the victims was prejudice on the part of some white persons.

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[redacted] who resides [redacted] of the MOORE residence, indicated she did not know anything about the report mentioned by [redacted] however she stated she had heard this particular rumor but did not recall the source.

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MM 44 270

[redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] in Titusville, Florida and he recalled specifically the incident in question and stated that either the first or second day subsequent to the bombing of the MOORE house he and ANNIE SIMMS were discussing the bombing with a reporter from the Titusville NEWS, JACK JESSE. [redacted] explained JESSE is a white man and that ANNIE had told him two men had come to her residence sometime during the summer making inquiry as to the whereabouts of MOORE. He stated ANNIE told the reporter she was unaware of MOORE's whereabouts inasmuch as she questioned the sincerity of the individuals making the inquiry. She told the reporter that the men were dressed in a shabby manner and identified themselves as representatives of the School Board of an adjacent county. She indicated the men were strangers to her and because she did not like their appearance and since HARRY MOORE had not been connected with the teaching profession since 1947, she did not furnish the information requested.

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ANNIE SIMMS, mother of victim HARRIETT MOORE, advised she was born and reared at Mims, Florida and has resided here all of her life except for a brief period when she lived at Jensen and West Palm Beach, the birthplace of victim HARRIETT MOORE.

She advised victims HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE married December 25, 1926 and resided in her home; that HARRY MOORE taught one or two terms at Cocoa, Florida, later at Titusville and for several years at Mims, until 1946-47. She stated HARRY MOORE was active in NAACP work on a local basis while teaching at Mims; that she accompanied HARRY to several NAACP meetings; and that on one occasion when the County Board of Education cut short to six months the school term at the Mims colored school, HARRY had organized a colored PTA group in Mims which subsequently appealed to the County Board of Education for a full school term. After two short terms their efforts were successful in restoring the full term.

She indicated that HARRY T. MOORE thereafter used the local PTA group as a nucleus for forming an NAACP chapter in Mims. She advised that while teaching in Mims a split had arisen in the colored school here after [redacted] had filed suit in an effort to obtain equal salaries for the colored teachers as compared to white teachers. ANNIE stated that as a result of this dissention HARRY T. MOORE was "cut off" from teaching at Mims and [redacted] (colored) was "black balled" by people in Brevard County.

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She stated that subsequently a petition was circulated and through the efforts of both colored people and some white people in Mims, after the petition was carried to the County Board of Education, HARRY T. MOORE was

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reinstated as a teacher. She named as one of the white residents of Mims who had worked in MOORE's behalf to have him reinstated one WILLIAM AMES GRUBB, now deceased. She advised that as best she recalled HARRY MOORE taught through the 1946-47 school term.

After MOORE learned that Mr. DAMON HUPPNER, County Superintendent of Education had gone to Panama City and contacted one [redacted], originally from Titusville and offered [redacted] the teaching job held by MOORE, provided [redacted] would not be affiliated with the NAACP, she advised that [redacted] would not take the job indicating that he was HARRY's friend, MOORE submitted his resignation, feeling that he was just before being fired.

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She stated that as best she recalled it was shortly before HARRY MOORE quit teaching that he was made state Executive secretary for the NAACP; that HARRY at that time had been visiting neighboring localities to assist in the organization of NAACP chapters. She indicated that MOORE's activities then had been limited to organizational work and she could not recall the date that HARRY MOORE organized the Progressive Voters League in this area.

ANNIE advised she herself stopped teaching when she was "cut off" in 1935; that she quit going to NAACP meetings with HARRY at that time; and that she had never attended meetings of the Progressive Voters League with HARRY, even though he was Executive secretary of both the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League.

She advised that HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE resided full time at Mims until about two years after HARRIETT quit teaching in Brevard County; that HARRIETT after being idle for about two years obtained work as a teacher about 1948 in the vicinity of West Palm Beach, Florida; and thereafter HARRY T. MOORE lived most of his time with HARRIETT at West Palm Beach making trips at irregular intervals to his residence in Mims. She advised that the electricity at the MOORE residence in Mims stayed on all the time and that it was the custom of HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE to spend a few days every Christmas at Mims.

She added that prior to the death of her husband, DAVE SIMMS, on May 9, 1950 HARRIETT MOORE made a practice of spending almost every weekend with the SIMMS family at Mims but that since DAVE's death, HARRIETT's visits to Mims, like HARRY's, were at infrequent and irregular intervals. She advised that all first class mail for HARRY MOORE received at Mims was forwarded to him by the Post Office but that she, ANNIE, obtained and forwarded bulky mail.

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ANNIE and [redacted] advised that HARRY MOORE had spent several days in Mims, Florida, just prior to the May, 1950 primary election, actively engaged in registering the colored people here. They advised that HARRY had attended political meetings at Mims, Titusville and Cocoa, Florida about that time and that while making efforts to have local colored citizens register to vote, County supervisor of Registration W. I. BAILEY had reportedly made the statement that he would not allow any negroes in the county to register and vote.

ANNIE recalled that one [redacted] colored A.M.E. minister, formerly of Titusville, now reportedly residing at Sanford, Florida, had filed a suit in court in this connection. She recalled that HARRY MOORE had written a letter to the then State Attorney General TOM WATSON, who had returned HARRY's letter with instructions to Registration Supervisor BAILEY that BAILEY must allow the negroes in this area to register and vote. ANNIE indicated that [redacted] was a close friend of HARRY T. MOORE.

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ANNIE recalled that prior to HARRIETT MOORE being "cut off" as a teacher in Brevard County, she had accompanied HARRY to the office of the County Superintendent of Education to inquire as to the reason why HARRIETT had not received her teaching contract. In the absence of the Superintendent of Education HARRIETT was told by a clerk in that office that she knew nothing about HARRIETT's job having been filled and that HARRIETT's contract could possibly be in the mail.

She stated that after another person replaced HARRIETT as a teacher, HARRY MOORE accompanied by a committee went to the residence of [redacted] according to ANNIE, [redacted] reportedly asked about a letter which had been sent to the State Attorney General after which HARRY took from his pocket and showed to [redacted] a copy of the letter HARRY had written to the State Attorney General, inquiring if this was the letter to which [redacted] referred. [redacted] reportedly stated that it was and told HARRY MOORE "that he didn't appreciate that kind of stuff." ANNIE attributed HARRIETT MOORE's failure to have her teaching contract renewed to HARRY MOORE's activity in the NAACP and the Progressive Voters League.

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It was after this incident and after remaining idle for two years that HARRIETT obtained employment as a teacher in the West Palm Beach area where she was so employed until the bombing of the MOORE residence.

ANNIE and [redacted] SIMES advised that HARRY MOORE had spent about three



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days in Brevard County just prior to or at the time of the general election in November, 1950 where HARRY was active in behalf of DAVE NISBET and in obtaining support for NISBET from the colored voters. HARRIETT MOORE remained in West Palm Beach at that time and HARRY MOORE took his meals at the SIMMS residence but slept in his own home at Mims.

[redacted] advised he had heard of no hard feeling toward HARRY MOORE before the 1950 election but that shortly after this election he had heard of considerable bitterness toward HARRY T. MOORE because of his efforts and support of DAVE NISBET which resulted in the defeat of Mr. FORTENBERRY for the office of County Commissioner. [redacted] stated he had heard a statement, from whom he was unable to recall, "that the FORTENBERRY crowd was sore at HARRY because they felt HARRY was responsible for the negro vote." [redacted] stated that after receiving this information he had driven to Orlando, Florida and there telephoned a cousin in West Palm Beach requesting the cousin to advise HARRY and HARRIETT MOORE not to come to Mims because the FORTENBERRY forces were "sore" at HARRY.

[redacted] volunteered his opinion that he felt if the FORTENBERRY forces had felt that bitter against HARRY they would have "gotten HARRY" before now. He added that after consideration he also felt that the FORTENBERRY forces might have been uncertain as to when HARRY T. MOORE would return to his residence at Mims and might have waited until now to harm him.

[redacted] further advised that MOORE had not been at the meeting at a church on Merritt Island. ANNIE stated she had heard HARRIETT MOORE say that [redacted] had reportedly said, during the time HARRY was active in registering negro voters, that "HARRY MOORE had better not carry this thing too far."

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ANNIE SIMMS stated that because of HARRIETT SIMMS' nervous condition and HARRIETT's efforts to have HARRY MOORE not take such an active part in the Groveland case, HARRY had undoubtedly kept some of his personal problems and troubles to himself.

In this connection [redacted] stated he had read in the Florida TIMES-UNION (Jacksonville newspaper) that HARRY MOORE had been present when IRVIN (one of the victims in the Groveland case) had testified and ANNIE recalled HARRIETT MOORE saying that HARRY MOORE had been in personal contact with IRVIN's family during that time.

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ANNIE SIMMS, continuing, stated that she is not aware that HARRY MOORE received any threats during the period of time he was working with the NAACP. She stated that HARRY realized that his wife and other members of the family were very nervous about his activities in the previously mentioned organization and that if he did receive any threats he would not have communicated this fact to any of them. She stated it was customary for HARRY MOORE to keep his wife very well posted on his itinerary and that she would have known his whereabouts daily.

ANNIE stated that during the period of time that her daughter was in the hospital at Sanford that she was with her continuously. She stated HARRIETT MOORE was reticent about furnishing information concerning the bombing or the persons responsible for it since she feared that reprisals might be made on members of her family. She stated that after several days in the hospital she decided to furnish any information she might have and is certain that all of this information was furnished to Bureau Agents or law enforcement officers who interviewed her.

SIMMS further stated she urged her daughter to cooperate to the fullest extent and was of the impression she did so. She recalled that HARRIETT MOORE advised her that the shock of the blast had caused a certain amount of loss of memory and was particularly uncertain about some of the events which transpired during the latter part of November and early December, 1950.

ANNIE SIMMS further added that HARRY MOORE did not confide in any other member of his family relative to his activities and was unable to furnish any names of persons in whom he may have confided. She stated, however, he was very friendly with a [redacted] who is [redacted] [redacted] Orlando, Florida and that he was particularly friendly with a [redacted] at Sanford, Florida.

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Relative to HARRY MOORE's activities, she is aware of the fact that he did make a trip to the office of Governor FULLER WARREN at Tallahassee, Florida, sometime during the month of September or October, 1951 at which time he laid his program before the Governor and was allegedly commended for it. She indicated he was keenly active in the Groveland case and that his activity in this regard fused into the final result, which was the bombing.

She indicated that HARRY MOORE's activity was regarded as dangerous both by MOORE and members of his family but that he disregarded this feeling since he felt he was working in the interest of his race. She stated he

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never expressed any fear but that he was cautious about his personal safety and never stayed overnight where he did not completely trust his host.

Relative to the allegation that she had been previously contacted by two unknown individuals inquiring as to the whereabouts of HARRY, ANNIE SIMMS denied she made any such statement. She stated at the time she is alleged to have been contacted by these individuals she was in New York City, having been away from Mims from June, 1951 to October 13, 1951. She stated, however, that she had heard by rumor that two unknown individuals had made contacts in the negro quarters of Mims as to the whereabouts of victim HARRY MOORE. She indicated she had no specific knowledge of this fact.

She added, however, in this connection, that she had heard that these men had made inquiry of [redacted] in Mims, that [redacted] had tried to throw this man off but that [redacted] had overheard this conversation and furnished the exact information as to where her son-in-law resided,

ANNIE SIMMS further added that she was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the events which transpired on the date of the blast which have not previously been furnished.

Accompanied by [redacted] an inspection was made of the contents of the pocketbook of victim HARRY T. MOORE. It is noted this purse contained some names and addresses but no other information of value. The following names were obtained from slips of paper and business cards located in HARRY T. MOORE's wallet:

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1. [redacted], Tallahassee, Florida. It was explained this individual was a Titusville boy who is being considered for appointment as a Deputy Sheriff in Brevard County.
2. [redacted] Apopka.
3. [redacted], Fort Myers.
4. [redacted] Daytona Beach.
5. [redacted] Daytona Beach.
6. [redacted] Miami, Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 7, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted]  
[redacted] Indian River City, Florida,  
[redacted]  
[redacted] in Brevard County and they are familiar with many of the white and colored people in the Mims area who work the groves.

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[redacted] advised that he first heard of the explosion that killed HARRY T. MOORE on the day following the blast. He advised that he had no idea who might have done the job, but he stated that HARRY T. MOORE was moving along too fast in his Progressive Voters League and his NAACP activities. [redacted] qualified himself by saying that MOORE was quite a leader amongst Negroes but it was his opinion that he was going too fast. He advised that he held no animosity toward MOORE and that he had never personally known the man but he knew of him because many of his drivers and packers often spoke of MOORE.

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[redacted] stated many of the white residents in the Titusville - Mims area would have liked to have seen MOORE's activities curb somewhat but she did not feel that murder was the proper way to do it. She frankly admitted that she did not care to see the Negroes get too much power through their voting and she did not care to see them organize such as the NAACP had organized them.

Both [redacted] said that they held no hatred for the Negroes whatsoever, that they had many of them working for them and that their relationship had been nothing but the best in the years they had been in the area, however, they were just southern minded people and felt the Negroes should be kept in their place. Neither had any idea who might have perpetrated the bombing and they said that their Negro help seldom mentioned the death of MOORE and his wife. Both advised that if they heard anything that would be of assistance in the matter they would notify the FBI immediately.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ on January 6, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted] also known as [redacted] was with [redacted] the night of the explosion and was the boy who had told [redacted] that the MOORE house had been bombed.

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[redacted] advised that he is known by the name of [redacted] in the Mims area and that he is a grove worker. He advised that he came to this area from St. George, South Carolina about a year and one-half or two years ago and that he did not know HARRY T. MOORE. [redacted] stated that on the night of the explosion he and [redacted] were returning from a movie at Cocoa, Florida in the [redacted] pick-up truck, and from Titusville on he recalled they had used the old Dixie Highway. He stated he had not seen anyone nor had they passed any automobiles from the time they left Titusville until they stopped at [redacted] home. He advised that [redacted] went to his house and was changing clothes getting ready to go to work when Deputy Sheriff [redacted] stopped in front of the house and asked them about an explosion. He said [redacted] had not heard any explosion and was curious to know what had happened. [redacted] drove off in the direction of Mims in the search of the explosion. When [redacted] had completed changing clothes they started to drive into Mims to [redacted] worked when they passed a woman whose name [redacted] could not recall and she told them there was an explosion over by Mr. MOORE's place at which time [redacted] caught up with Deputy Sheriff [redacted] and advised him of the information this woman had given him.

[redacted] further advised that a little while after Deputy Sheriff [redacted] left for the MOORE residence he and [redacted] drove down to see what had happened. He stated the house was badly damaged by some kind of a blast but they did not ask any questions and left soon after their arrival. He stated that after [redacted] went back to work, he went on up in the Negro quarters and stopped by a house that was having a party. He did not know whose house this was but said that [redacted] was there and he told him that MOORE's house had been blown up. [redacted] stated that he knew nothing more about instant explosion and said that the Negro boys do not have much to say about it.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and [redacted] on January 7, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

BASIS: On January 6, 1952, [redacted] previously interviewed, contacted Agents to advise them he had been talking with one [redacted]

[redacted] Cocoa [redacted] that day.

He stated that [redacted] had made the statement to the effect that they would never find out who did the bombing at Mims and further that they could not find out who did it when the next one occurred "over here", indicating that a bombing would probably occur at some future date on the west side of Cocoa in the colored section. [redacted] requested his identity be kept confidential to [redacted] in the event [redacted] were interviewed concerning this statement.

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On interview [redacted] stated that he has been the [redacted] for approximately 30 years and that he has been a resident of Cocoa for the past 40 years.

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By appropriate questioning not disclosing the identity of [redacted] readily admitted having made the statement "that they would never find out who did the Mims bombing". He said he based this statement on the fact that the perpetrators of the bombings in Miami had never been caught and that the person or persons responsible for the Mims bombing would never be caught. He stated he recalled making this statement in Grant's Barber Shop and also recalled that some 4 persons were present at that time. None of the persons named by him included [redacted]

[redacted] stated that in his opinion "if they" would leave the Negroes alone everything would be alright. On direct questioning he stated he did not know who "they" were.

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Again by appropriate questioning [redacted] denied having made any forecast that another bombing would occur in Cocoa. He emphatically stated that if he had any such information he would quickly furnish that information to the appropriate authorities for handling.

[redacted] stated he was unable to shed any light whatsoever on the instant bombing either as to why it was done or who did it.

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During the interview, [ ] commented that all of his crew at work are colored people. He stated they have been very reluctant to talk of the bombing and he has been unable to learn their opinion of the bombing.

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III. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT A. FORTENBERRY

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and [redacted] on January 6, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

BASIS: To interview [redacted] for any information in his possession concerning FORTENBERRY and the political situation in Brevard County which would be of pertinence to the investigation.

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On interview, [redacted] furnished the following incidents indicating the scope of FORTENBERRY's power in Brevard County.

[redacted] stated he had had his attorney [redacted] now in the United States Army. [redacted] some property which [redacted] owns as compared with property owned by FORTENBERRY. [redacted] stated he owns a piece of property [redacted] and that FORTENBERRY owns a similar piece of property extending for a half mile on either side of the road. The county records show that [redacted] taxes a year on his property and that FORTENBERRY paid only \$113 a year taxes for 528 feet of road frontage. In this connection he stated that FORTENBERRY while on the county commission was a member of the Tax Assessment Equalization Board. He also noted that FORTENBERRY's sawmill was located on part of his property fronting on Merritt Island Road.

[redacted] recalled having heard from [redacted] who was formerly employed by FORTENBERRY [redacted] that FORTENBERRY owned the Enterprize Lumber Company of Jacksonville, Florida. According to his information this is a dummy corporation. [redacted] noted that all of the lumber purchased by the County Commission was purchased from the Enterprize Lumber Company. In fact this lumber came directly from FORTENBERRY's Company located on Merritt Island. The billing was made through the Enterprize Lumber Company for record purposes only. [redacted] stated he had also learned from [redacted] that FORTENBERRY at the present time is devoting all of his time to the newspaper, "East Coast Trade Winds" and that his work at the sawmill has generally come to a halt. He advised that [redacted] of a very good friend and business associate of his, [redacted]

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on Merritt Island. According to [redacted] was in strong opposition to FORTENBERRY and his political machine in the past 1950 elections. [redacted] ventured that [redacted] might possibly be receptive and furnish information to Bureau Agents in this case.

[redacted] also pointed out that all of the practicing attorneys in the Cocoa-Merritt Island area are subsidized by the political powers as soon as they set up practice. In this connection he pointed out that his attorney [redacted] who had checked on the tax matter for him, was within 30 days thereafter working for FORTENBERRY and a strong FORTENBERRY supporter.

Concerning the allegation that FORTENBERRY had had a road built to his home with county funds, [redacted] stated he had no absolute proof that this action on FORTENBERRY's part of County Commissioner was in the nature of fraud, but does know that there is a definite rumor to that effect; that the road was built for FORTENBERRY's sole benefit. He stated that the road had been built after FORTENBERRY had been defeated in the 1950 election but before his successor DAVE NISBET took office. [redacted] stated he had spoken about this matter to one of the county commissioners whom he declined to name and that this commissioner had stated that he had voted in favor of the road and further that he would vote in favor of any such project for any county commissioner who desired a road built within his district.

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[redacted] recalled another incident concerning the Canaveral Port project. He stated that there had been a great deal of opposition to the project in the county. He noted that the Cocoa newspaper, owned and operated by a [redacted] which is usually neutral on any controversial question came out one hundred per cent for the FORTENBERRY proposal for a bond issue for the Port project. According to [redacted], within a matter of weeks after the bond issue had been approved a good hard top road was built to [redacted] road from the Merritt Island Road. [redacted] stated this road is some 8 miles in length and of benefit only to [redacted]

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Concerning FORTENBERRY, himself, [redacted] stated it is his understanding that the elder FORTENBERRY is an extremely sick man and that he has had some severe attacks of an unknown matter within the recent past. [redacted] stated he estimated FORTENBERRY would be worth anywhere from \$500,000 to a million dollars if he were to liquidate all of his holdings.

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[ ] expressed the opinion that FORTENBERRY is at this time attempting to regroup his powers for the coming elections, in an attempt to regain control of the County Commissioners and in particular to regain the position of Chairman of the Canaveral Port Project.

[ ] pointed out that FORTENBERRY'S main purpose in all this was to get back on the Port Project Commission because he had the most to lose by being out of this particular picture.

[ ] recommended very highly one [ ] a Cocoa Beach Police Officer. He stated [ ] was an extremely reliable and alert officer and that he had been doing considerable speculation and casual questioning of people concerning the bombing. In addition [ ] stated [ ] was well acquainted with the political situation in Brevard County and could furnish Agents with considerable information along this line.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. NEECH on January 7, 1952, at Cocoa Beach, Florida.

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BASIS: To obtain from [redacted] Cocoa Beach Police Officer any information in his possession concerning the political situation in Brevard County of pertinence to instant investigation.

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On interview [redacted] stated that he has since the bombing talked to a large number of colored people in and around Cocoa Beach and that they all refused to express their opinions as to who might have done the bombing or why it was done.

[redacted] at first expressed the opinion that there was no one at Brevard County in the political picture who would use a method such as was used on HARRY T. MOORE to eliminate him. He stated he felt certain that the perpetrators of the crime came from outside Brevard County. He mentioned in particular that the white and colored population in and around Mims was unusually harmonious in their relations with one another.

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In response to questioning concerning gambling activities in Brevard County, [redacted] stated that prior to his death, JOHNNY WEATHERS, was the "king pin". He stated that one [redacted] book-keeper and close associate. His immediate partner was one [redacted]. In this connection he noted that [redacted] is very "close" at the County Seat in Titusville. [redacted] stated that when WEATHERS died the gambling business was supposed to have been split up and further that [redacted] seems to have taken over the colored section. He also stated that [redacted] is operating [redacted] in Cocoa. [redacted] stated he was not acquainted with anyone by the name of [redacted].

During the course of the interview [redacted] of his own recollection and without questioning or prompting by Agents recalled that the elder FORTENBERRY was the big political boss of Brevard County.

[redacted] noted that FORTENBERRY was the biggest employer of the Negroes in Brevard County employing them in both his sawmill and various

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county jobs. He stated that after the 1950 elections, FORTENBERRY made a canvas of the colored quarters in the county in an attempt to learn for himself why the colored vote had turned against him. [redacted] stated that this was a well known fact in and around the county. He also added that it was of significance to note that HARRY T. MOORE as the leading representative of the Progressive Voters League was at that time the leader of the Negro people. Also in this connection [redacted] observed that the Negro people as a class seemed to require a leader and that for all of the years before HARRY T. MOORE appeared on the scene FORTENBERRY had been their leader in that they would do most anything he requested of them. [redacted] observed that it must have been a great blow to FORTENBERRY to learn that his power over the Negro people in the county had been broken.

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He also observed that FORTENBERRY was, in his opinion, hurt the most by the election. By way of explanation he stated that the Canaveral Port project was the "big plum for FORTENBERRY and that by being ousted from the county commission he was automatically ousted from the chairmanship of the Port Authority Board. He stated FORTENBERRY had a great deal to gain by the sale of his land in the immediate vicinity of the Port Project if the project were to go through.

In this connection [redacted] stated, "FORTENBERRY would do anything to get back in as County Commissioner and head the Port Commission again".

[redacted] stated that immediately following the 1950 elections, FORTENBERRY was silent. Shortly thereafter the people of Brevard County began questioning the decisions of the Canaveral Port Authority, of which FORTENBERRY was still Chairman until the end of his term December, 1951. Shortly after the beginning of 1951 FORTENBERRY began riding the present Port Authority Board, and has at the present time gone to the extreme of operating the newspaper, East Coast Trade Winds, wherein considerable space is devoted to the Project, its merits and proposed benefits to Brevard County and the stupidity of the present Port authority Board in the handling of this project.

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[redacted] stated that FORTENBERRY is at this time preparing his forces to regain control of the County Commission and the Port Project and that he, [redacted], expects either FORTENBERRY or [redacted] to qualify as candidate for the County Commission. In this connection he noted

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a membership in the County Commission from that particular district of the County automatically carried with it membership on the Port Authority Board. [ ] noted that FORTENBERRY is keeping himself in the lime light at all times and has done so since his defeat in 1950.

[ ] volunteered the opinion that the Mims bombing was either going to frighten the colored people in the county into submission or they were going to cause trouble. He stated that in his duties as police officer he has come to the tentative conclusion that it is going to frighten them into submission. In this connection he noted that for the Negro vote to have any effective direction on the coming election whoever in the county qualifies in their minds as a leader will be able to control their vote. He ventured the opinion that it would take a long time for another colored man to accomplish what HARRY T. MOORE had accomplished and that the colored people would in all probability resume their old alliance with the FORTENBERRY powers.

On questioning [ ] furnished the following names of individuals whom he considered close associates of FORTENBERRY.

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ARTHUR DUNN - [ ] stated DUNN is a strong FORTENBERRY man and further that DUNN is the type of individual who would be there if there were any division of spoils to be made. DUNN is a County Commissioner from the Mims district at the present time.

COLONEL BUTT - [ ] stated that at one time FORTENBERRY and BUTT were extremely close but they at the present time are bitter enemies. He pointed out that COLONEL BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa at the present time heads the Port Authority Board and that FORTENBERRY is fighting the Board with all of his resources.

JOHN FORTENBERRY - CALDWELL stated [ ] and further that he is the elder FORTENBERRY's constant companion at all meetings.

[ ] stated he did not think that anyone of the County Commissioners with the exception of ARTHUR DUNN was in sympathy with FORTENBERRY.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on January 7, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

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BASIS: To determine from [redacted] whether or not he attended the meeting on Merritt Island just prior to the 1950 elections, at which meeting [redacted] appeared and whether he has any information concerning an ill feeling on the part of ANDREW FORTENBERRY and HARRY T. MOORE.

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[redacted] Concerning the Merritt Island meeting mentioned in the basis, stated that he was not at the meeting and further that he did not think HARRY T. MOORE had attended the meeting.

Concerning any animosity between FORTENBERRY and HARRY T. MOORE, SILAS stated that he knew of no specific instances wherein FORTENBERRY had made any threats or statements concerning MOORE specifically. He did recount, however, the "Roberts Case". According to [redacted] ROY ROBERTS ex County Sheriff and HUBERT GRIGGS, present Assistant States Attorney, ran against each other for the States Legislature in the 1948 elections. At that time GRIGGS won the election. Shortly before the close of the Legislature, GRIGGS was appointed Assistant States Attorney leaving a vacancy and requiring a special election. The election was between ROBERTS and AKRIDGE. At that time ROBERTS won the election. The next election was the 1950 general election and again was between AKRIDGE and ROBERTS. At this election and as a result of the activities of the Progressive Voters League the colored vote was banded together in a block and was able to defeat ROBERTS. According to [redacted] ROBERTS was very disturbed and angered with MOORE. [redacted] stated that ROBERTS is the owner of the Ford Garage in Titusville. In this connection, however, SILAS noted that he had never heard that either FORTENBERRY or ROBERTS was out to get MOORE.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN A. HANLEY and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 7, 1952:

BASIS: Interview of [redacted] mentioned by [redacted] as being able to furnish additional substantiating information regarding the meeting of supporters of County Commission candidate DAVE MISBET on Merritt Island in October, 1950.

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[redacted] on Merritt Island, Cocoa, Florida, and who can be located through Box 34, Cocoa, advised he is acquainted with the facts surrounding the election of DAVE MISBET as candidate for County Commission during general elections November, 1950.

[redacted] advised he has resided in Cocoa for a great many years and has been well aware of the political activities of the various candidates who were running for election and re-election in November, 1950. [redacted] advised for a great many years the affairs of the Brevard County Commission have been under the control of ARDY FORTTEBERRY. He indicated that FORTTEBERRY was a victorious candidate in the Democratic Party in the May, 1950 primary election and that the November election was considered as merely a formality immediately preceding his assumption of duties as Chairman of County Commissioners for Brevard County.

[redacted] added that about five or six weeks prior to the November, 1950 election he was approached by some of the residents of Merritt Island and Cocoa who indicated they were dissatisfied with the activities of FORTTEBERRY and felt it was time for a change. He stated approximately 70 of the outstanding white men, both business and professional, decided to have a meeting at the home of [redacted] at Indianola, Florida about October 1, 1950.

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He stated the person who led this meeting was an [redacted] a resident of Merritt Island, who was dissatisfied personally with FORTTEBERRY's refusal to give some assistance for the construction of a bridge on the island. [redacted] further stated this meeting was held for the purpose of determining the consideration and support which could be given to the idea of sponsoring a "write in candidate" for the office of County Commissioner against FORTTEBERRY.

He advised that the residents were enthusiastic; that several candidates, including himself, were considered but that finally in the absence of

JAA:JES  
MM 44-270

DAVE NISBET, the group agreed to draft and support NISBET for this office, and he was subsequently notified of this drafting. It was also decided they would not make a public announcement of the selection; that they would proceed slowly, cautiously and with determination prior to making an official announcement. It was indicated that all plans for the campaign were mapped out.

[redacted] stated he did not recall that any of Mr. FORTENBERRY's constituents were present at this meeting but he learned later that the identity of most of the persons attending the meeting were known to FORTENBERRY and that he, [redacted] along with six or eight other men active at this meeting, were kicked out of the County Democratic Party. He stated he was also selected by the group as NISBET's campaign manager.

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After his selection he undertook to operate the campaign in an aggressive manner and that he and NISBET, along with other men, discussed the matter of the NISBET campaign with some of the negroes who live on Merritt Island. At the request of some of the negroes on Merritt Island it was decided that a meeting would be held at a colored church on Merritt Island to discuss NISBET's campaign.

This meeting was attended by [redacted] and himself, as representatives of NISBET. At this time [redacted] did most of the talking in behalf of NISBET and in an effort to gain support of the colored voters he mentioned an incident which occurred immediately prior to the May primaries which had disappointed and aroused the colored voters of Merritt Island.

In explanation of this incident [redacted] stated FORTENBERRY had been promising improvements, including the cutting of a drainage ditch through a residential area on the island. He stated that before the May primary FORTENBERRY had placed a bulldozer or dragline in the vicinity of the proposed drainage ditch; had left the machine there until after his election in the May primaries; and had immediately thereafter removed the machine without moving any dirt or making any semblance of cutting a drainage ditch.

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As a result of this meeting which [redacted] stated was not attended by victim HARRY MOORE, the negro leaders of Merritt Island stated they favored a subsequent meeting in Cocoa of the various leaders in the upper Brevard County area. At this time arrangements were made to meet at the residence of a negro leader in Cocoa, whose name he did not recall. This meeting was arranged sometime during the middle of October, 1950.



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[redacted] further added this meeting was held with representatives of the negro race and was attended by HARRY T. MOORE and other negro representatives from Mims, Titusville, Cocoa, Merritt Island and Equ Gallie. [redacted] advised that the white NISBET representatives attending this meeting were DAVE NISBET, [redacted]. He stated the victim, HARRY T. MOORE, appeared to be the representative of the negroes at this meeting, and acted as spokesman and directed questions to the white representatives in an intelligent and businesslike manner. He said they were impressed by the intelligence of HARRY MOORE.

At no time did HARRY MOORE indicate he would assist or support NISBET in this campaign but they were very anxious to learn all of the issues and what the negro race would obtain in the event their support was furnished. For example, MOORE wanted to know what stand NISBET would take with regard to the appointment of a colored Notary Public on Merritt Island, and what other assistance he would give the negro race.

At the conclusion of the questioning session of this meeting, MOORE stated the colored leaders present at this meeting desired to discuss the matter further and as a result, the white representatives departed.

[redacted] stated he has not seen the victim since that date, although he heard from DAVE NISBET that MOORE was an outstanding negro leader in the county and state, that he had extreme influence with the negroes and that he was a representative of several national organizations. He recalled NISBET displayed communications with MOORE on the stationery of the NAACP.

[redacted] stated that HARRY T. MOORE was very active in this campaign and recalls that [redacted] assisted him in efforts to develop the negro vote. [redacted] stated he, himself, did not take part in this phase of the election; that his, [redacted] consisted in combating the active publicity directed at NISBET by the FORTENBERRY forces and attributes the defeat of FORTENBERRY in this campaign to keeping on the offensive. He stated FORTENBERRY continued to answer NISBET's attacks in a defensive manner. He indicated that at no time was he ever informed by any of the negro leaders, including HARRY T. MOORE, that they had decided to support NISBET up to and through the general election.

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[redacted] also stated that FORTENBERRY was very active during the political campaign himself and that his chief lieutenant appeared to be [redacted] a grove owner who was with him, FORTENBERRY, during the entire campaign. He stated one of FORTENBERRY's most active colored supporters

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was [ ] who is employed by the County Road Department and who was given time off on election day to transport colored voters to the polls.

[ ] added he had learned that [ ] had transported only three voters on this day, and according to [ ] own statement, he doubted if these three voted for FORTENBERRY.

In this connection, according to [ ] was permitted to retain his position with the Road Department despite the election of NISBET. [ ] further stated not a single employee of the county government was fired as a result of their prior support of FORTENBERRY and all of those who wished to continue in the employ of the County after NISBET's election were permitted to do so.

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[ ] continuing, added that FORTENBERRY has taken his political defeat very seriously. He indicated that he was certain FORTENBERRY felt this loss very deeply and immediately subsequent to his defeat started again to effect his subsequent re-election to the office which he had vacated.

In this connection [ ] stated that FORTENBERRY purchased a newspaper which he presently operates under the name "Trade Winds"; that he has been openly critical in this publication concerning the present County Commission and in particular, needling them regarding the Canaveral Port Authority project in which FORTENBERRY was unusually interested and to which he had devoted a large amount of his efforts while Chairman of the County Commission.

[ ] stated that during the entire period of NISBET's campaign he had gathered rumors, facts and figures relative to the county finances. He indicated he had recently destroyed this data but recalls that there were sufficient funds in the county treasury to handle a great many of the projects which were desired of FORTENBERRY during his incumbency. [ ] stated it was a known fact that any questions asked of FORTENBERRY during his tenure of office were generally received by one of two answers. He explained that requests for financial assistance were either answered "No" or "No funds." He stated this financial data was gathered to combat this activity on the part of FORTENBERRY.

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[ ] further indicated he felt that FORTENBERRY was keenly aware of his loss as County Commissioner and that the negro vote played a very strong part in it. He indicated FORTENBERRY probably did not even know the identity of victim MOORE or the extent of his activities. He stated he may have known MOORE as a negro leader but that he did not know

JAH:JMS  
MM 44-270

of his membership in state or national negro organizations.

In addition he stated FORTENBERRY is a very astute politician, very wise in political ways and he stated he did not believe FORTENBERRY would go to any extreme in effecting his re-election. He indicated FORTENBERRY owns a great deal of land and other properties on Merritt Island and that he was a good businessman and had financial ability to make purchases which would no doubt return considerable monetary gain. In this connection he stated FORTENBERRY, to his knowledge, does not own land immediately adjacent to the Canaveral Port Authority and did not stand to gain substantially through the development of the Port Authority, except in that completion of the Port Authority would, no doubt, cause development and growth in Cocoa and vicinity and thereby FORTENBERRY might realize considerable profit through sale of land in the process of this growth.

In summary, [redacted] stated that he had no knowledge which would indicate that FORTENBERRY was involved in or connected in any way with the death of victim HARRY T. MOORE. He advised he personally does not believe that FORTENBERRY was implicated in or connected with MOORE's death, giving as his personal reasons the fact that FORTENBERRY is an elderly man, is financially independent, the fact the position of County Commissioner and Chairman of the Port Authority does not mean, in financial terms, that much to FORTENBERRY or any other individual and the fact that FORTENBERRY, due to his experience and intelligence, would not become involved in anything similar to the explosion resulting in MOORE's death, as FORTENBERRY would realize that exposure would be the end of him financially, personally and politically.

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RES:msf

MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on January 8, 1952, at Merritt Island, Florida.

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BASIS: To obtain from DAVID S. NISBET, County Commissioner, any information in his possession concerning ANDY FORTENBERRY and Brevard County politics of pertinence to instant investigation.

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It will be noted that DAVID S. NISBET ran against ANDY FORTENBERRY in the November, 1950, general elections for County Commissioner. NISBET was placed on the ballot by a write-in and defeated FORTENBERRY.

On interview Mr. NISBET stated that it was within his knowledge that FORTENBERRY had taken his defeat very hard in connection with instant election. He also stated that he knew that HARRY T. MOORE had campaigned very vigorously for him, NISBET, and further that it was through his influence that the colored vote of Brevard County swung to NISBET.

NISBET volunteered a number of instances indicating fraud on the part of FORTENBERRY during his termination as County Commissioner. These various items have been reported elsewhere in greater detail and will not be set forth in full here.

In addition to those instances previously reported NISBET delved into the manner by which FORTENBERRY accumulated his wealth. He stated that undoubtedly FORTENBERRY had amassed his money indirectly by being a County Commissioner. By this he stated he meant that FORTENBERRY by reason of his position was able to buy thousands of acres of timber land for defaulted taxes. From this land he was able to cut timber which was in turn cut into lumber in his sawmill. Much of this land is located on the west side of Banana River just west of the proposed Port Canaveral Project and through which the proposed highway would enter. It was NISBET's thought that FORTENBERRY would stand to make a considerable amount of money should this road go through; that this money could be made by sales to the County.

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In reply to questioning NISBET furnished the following information about JOHNNY WEATHERS and [redacted]. He stated WEATHERS was the recognized racket man in Brevard County for many years until his death in 1946. WEATHERS was also a strong FORTENBERRY man. About [redacted] NISBET stated that he was [redacted] until several years ago when he and WEATHERS had a falling out over some matter of [redacted] having to sell some numbers on his own failing to account for them to WEATHERS. Immediately after that [redacted] disappeared from the County for a year or two. When he came back he settled down in his present place of business, a juice stand, located north of Mims. Nisbet stated [redacted] was also a strong FORTENBERRY man particularly in the last election. He recalled one instance when [redacted] came to him, NISBET, and told him he had no business getting involved in politics, that things were setting along alright. NISBET expressed the opinion that he did not think [redacted] has been involved in any rackets since his return.

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NISBET also recalled another incident in which a bar owner, [redacted] of Cocoa was shot at several years ago. He emphasized that he had no proof but the general consensus of opinion was that [redacted] was the individual who shot at [redacted]. This incident he stated took place prior to the death of JOHNNY WEATHERS.

NISBET named the following individuals as being close associates of ANDY FORTENBERRY:

J. S. BRODERSON - A very close associate of FORTENBERRY. NISBET stated he did not know how BRODERSON made a living but noted that he appeared to be quite well off. He stated BRODERSON has a small citrus grove and a small dairy neither of which would bring in enough income to support him in the manner of his living. BRODERSON is about 60 years of age.

[redacted] NISBET described [redacted] as a political protege of FORTENBERRY. He recalled that [redacted] under FORTENBERRY's [redacted] and [redacted] has no other outward employment. His wife works in the A & P Grocery Store on Merritt Island. He does not show much financial success.

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[redacted] lives in Courtney and maintains a small office near the Merritt Island Laundry. [redacted]

[redacted] is one of a large family, some 40 or more, none of whom have anything to do with [redacted]. It should be noted that one of the [redacted] ran against a FORTENBERRY man in the 1950 election. NISBET was unable to recall the name of the position.

[redacted] near COCOA. He is not too closely associated with FORTENBERRY, but as noted below [redacted] of the East Coast Trade Winds, FORTENBERRY's newspaper.

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[redacted] on Merritt Island. He is not very successful.

[redacted] NISBET stated he believed [redacted] of FORTENBERRY's from Mississippi.

Of the above individuals NISBET noted that [redacted] of FORTENBERRY's newspaper, the EAST COAST TRADE WINDS, when it was first published. In this connection he noted that FORTENBERRY is the type of man who never comes out in the open on any of his pet projects. He always has someone else fronting for him. It will also be noted that the present editor of the Trade Winds is a man by the name of [redacted]. NISBET stated [redacted] is a stranger in these parts and as a matter of fact has never heard of anyone who has ever seen [redacted].

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NISBET went on to state that FORTENBERRY seldom comes to any of the meetings of the Port Canaveral Commission. Instead either [redacted] comes in his place. According to NISBET these individuals never have anything of a constructive nature to put before the meeting and generally confine their remarks to criticism.

NISBET noted that there has been no one fired from the County Payroll as a result of FORTENBERRY's defeat in the 1950 elections. NISBET did state, however, that there is a strong political association between FORTENBERRY and [redacted] and that he NISBET has tried to

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fire [redacted] since he has taken off, however, no one else on the County Commission appears to be interested, and whenever he brings the matter up before the Commission it is passed off with some comment to the effect that [redacted] has only about one more year to serve before he is eligible for retirement and therefore he should be allowed to serve this time.

NISBET stated that he knows of no KKK activity in Brevard County and expressed the belief that there has been no activity for many years. He did recall that when he was in his early teens there was a Junior KKK and he was a member of it. He stated, however, that it was purely a social club. He recalled that his scout master had quit his job as scout master and became the leader of the Junior KKK. All the members of his former scout troupe quit the Boy Scouts and joined the Junior KKK. He stated he does not know if FORTENBERRY has ever been a member of the KKK at any time.

NISBET attempted to evaluate individuals who are FORTENBERRY's associates who might be approachable concerning instant investigation and who would not divulge the contact to FORTENBERRY. He stated that none of FORTENBERRY's close associates were in his opinion approachable. He did, however, mention that COLONEL NOAH BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa, has for many years been a very close associate of FORTENBERRY's but that since FORTENBERRY's defeat he has been strongly opposed to FORTENBERRY. NISBET also mentioned one [redacted]

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[redacted] is a former close associate of FORTENBERRY, who has since FORTENBERRY's defeat turned against him.

NISBET also stated that the present Secretary of the Port Canaveral Project Mr. N. M. ARGABRITE of Cocoa Beach would be an excellent person to talk to concerning the present condition of the Port Authority. In this connection he noted that the records of the Port Authority during the period FORTENBERRY was Chairman of the Commission are either missing or very poorly kept. In either event it appears impossible to determine from these records the disposition of the funds which have been made available to the Port Authority Commission. NISBET noted that a bond issue of one million dollars had been voted for the Port Authority.

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Concerning FORTENBERRY's publication, the EAST COAST TRADE WINDS, NISBET stated that the paper is edited and assembled at the office of FORTENBERRY's sawmill the Merritt Island Lumber Company located on Merritt Island Road. The telephone number of the Merritt Island Lumber Company, 258W, was formerly the number listed to the newspaper. At the present time the telephone of the newspaper is 838.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRANK F. MEECH on January 8, 1952, at Cocoa, Florida.

BASIS: To obtain any information in the possession of [redacted] concerning the political situation existing in Brevard County and any particular information in his possession concerning the activities of ANDY FORTENBERRY.

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On interview [redacted] stated that he along with a group of the leading business men in the Cocoa - Merritt Island area had been actively engaged in defeating ANDY FORTENBERRY for the position of County Commissioner in the November, 1950, general elections. He stated that he was one of those individuals who had been ousted from the Democratic Party by the special meeting called by FORTENBERRY and that this action had greatly incensed him and his other associates.

[redacted] related a series of events which have previously been set forth concerning the rumored fraudulent practices engaged in by FORTENBERRY during his terms as County Commissioner and Chairman of the County Commission and inasmuch as these have been set out in great detail elsewhere they are not being reported here.

It should be noted that [redacted] stated he was unable to furnish absolute proof of any of the acts on the part of FORTENBERRY adding that they were purely hearsay in his knowledge.

[redacted] was questioned as to the names of any individuals close to FORTENBERRY who might be approached for more direct information in instant case. He stated he did not know of a single member of FORTENBERRY's group who would be approachable and who could be trusted not to take the information back to FORTENBERRY. In this connection, however, he did mention that COLONEL NOAH BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa and Present Chairman of the Port Canaveral Commission had originally been a close associate of FORTENBERRY and a staunch supporter, but since FORTENBERRY's defeat in the 1950 general election FORTENBERRY has been severely critical of COLONEL BUTT's activities in connection with the Port Canaveral

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Project. As a result of this criticism FORTENBERRY and BUTT are at the present time bitter enemies. [redacted] stated he believed COLONEL BUTT could be approached in confidence by Agents

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ROBERT T. NISCHWITZ and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 7, 1952.

BASIS: [redacted]

[redacted] at Mims and his name was furnished by [redacted] as the person who would know something about [redacted] and HARRY T. MOORE.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, [redacted] Company, Mims, Florida, advised that he has known HARRY T. MOORE for about 15 years and that he referred to MOORE as [redacted] advised that some 10 or 11 years ago when [redacted] next to their present business location they had done a little work for HARRY T. MOORE and that MOORE was a little slow in his payments, but he always paid his bills and to his knowledge [redacted] advised that MOORE was always in debt but as was stated he managed to pay his bills.

[redacted] stated that the last time he had personally contacted HARRY T. MOORE was during an election four years ago. He advised he had gone to HARRY T. MOORE at that time to get an idea how the Negro vote was going to go. [redacted] stated that in this election he himself was for a candidate named MILLER and he decided to ask MOORE what MILLER's chances were. Upon approaching MOORE, [redacted] advised that MOORE refused to make any statements saying that he would not commit himself as to which way the colored vote was going to go and refused to give any information as to the feelings of the Negroes in that particular election.

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[redacted] stated that two years ago in the county election in the race between DAVE NISBET and ANDREW FORTENBERRY he had considered approaching MOORE again to ascertain how the Negro vote was going but decided against it for he knew MOORE was a good politician and would not commit himself. [redacted] stated that he backed NISBET in this particular election and he had gone around to a few Negro families and asked what they thought of DAVE NISBET. He failed to get any idea as to how the Negroes were going to vote. He advised that MOORE controlled

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the Negro vote in this area and that MOORE seldom did any talking around his home town in any election until the county election that FORTENBERRY and NISBET participated in. He advised that MOORE would not commit himself as to how the Negro vote would go but he felt that MOORE had backed NISBET in the election.

[redacted] stated that the only trouble that occurred during that election was when a fellow named [redacted] who lives about one-half mile northeast of MOORE had made some pretty rash statements to him, [redacted] about the election. [redacted] stated that in Mims he was talking to a group of citizens informally around election time and he had voiced the opinion that he thought that if the Negroes were taxed they should have a right to vote like any other person. At this [redacted] a staunch FORTENBERRY advocate tried to pick a fight with [redacted] by saying "you Nigger loving S.O.B.". [redacted] said that he immediately became mad but decided that a fight would do neither he nor [redacted] any good. He stated [redacted] had been drinking and was known to be a hot tempered individual and too that it was becoming known at this stage of the election that the Negroes had been instructed to vote for NISBET and [redacted] was mad about this. [redacted] advised that [redacted] works for [redacted] and is well known in the Mims area. He stated that he and [redacted] are still friendly and they speak to one another quite often. He attributes [redacted] harsh statements during election time to drinking and the hot political race. [redacted] is well known in the Mims community and is noted for a hot temper, however, he is not violent by any means.

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[redacted] stated that he has no idea as to who might have killed HARRY T. MOORE and his wife and has no idea why anybody would want to kill them. He admitted that MOORE was politically powerful among the Negroes but felt that no one would kill him because of his influence among the Negroes.

On the night of the instant explosion [redacted] stated that he had gone to the movies with his children and had returned home. At the time of the explosion he was lying on the bed in his children's bedroom reading to them. When the explosion occurred it violently shook his house which is approximately [redacted] of MOORE's residence. He said it frightened his children so bad that they both threw their arms around him and just quivered. His wife asked him what had happened and he stated that he did not know but he assumed that one of the big trailer trucks at the truck stop had blown a tire. [redacted] stated that a few months ago

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around September or October he was working late in his shop when a terrific blast shook the area and that he had gone outside and finally found out that one of the large trucks in the filling station directly across from his place of business had blown a tire. He said this explosion was very violent, therefore, he thought that the explosion on Christmas night was the same thing. He did not go outside to investigate. He stated that he did not know that HARRY T. MOORE had been killed until the next morning and that morning upon hearing of MOORE's death he had gone down to see what had happened and was amazed at the sight of MOORE's house.

Since the explosion he has talked with various people about who might have done it or why it was done, but the only conversation that stays in his mind is one he had with a [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] was just making conversation and they were discussing the terrific force of the blast and that they thought that it might have been something that the Army uses. Neither had any basis for this. They then discussed who in the area was in the Army and their conversation led to [redacted] who had recently returned from [redacted] [redacted] stated that possibly [redacted] knew something about the explosion and that maybe the police should check him. [redacted] said he could not imagine [redacted] doing anything like that and [redacted] and he dismissed the conversation from his thoughts.

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He stated that had this explosion occurred four or five years ago that the police would probably have picked up [redacted]. He went on to say that a youngman named [redacted] had lived in the Mims area for sometime until four years ago and that this boy [redacted] had been in trouble with exploding dynamite in and around the Mims area. He said that [redacted] had set off some dynamite east of highway one almost across the street from [redacted] and that the police had arrested him and he recieved some sort of punishment for this. He had not heard of [redacted] for some time now. He said that he knew he had been in the service and returned to Mims and got in some other kind of trouble and was ordered out of the State of Florida, and had gone up to Georgia to live. He felt that [redacted] did not have anything to do with the recent explosion but just mentioned that had it occurred some years back he would have been the first one the police would have picked up.

[redacted] stated that he hears a lot of rumors about the explosion but felt that they were of no consequence but advised he would notify the FBI the next time he hears anything about it.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and FRED E. GORDON on January 17, 1952:

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BASIS: Interview [redacted] a former close associate of FORTENBERRY to determine if anyone in FORTENBERRY's camp can be approached in confidence.

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[redacted] Merritt Island, Florida, advised that he was one of the main supporters of FORTENBERRY in the 1950 County Commissioner's election held in Cocoa, Florida. RAMSEY stated there was great attention, heavy opposition in this election and that many times before the election actually came off, he and FORTENBERRY had talks, mainly about how they might try to find a legal way to stop all the vote buying, having reference to the negro votes.

Along this same line of thought, according to [redacted] he recalled a meeting that took place one or two days before the election, held at a church on Merritt Island, the purpose of which was to line up the negro votes against FORTENBERRY. [redacted] stated that [redacted] headed this meeting. As RAMSEY recalled, MOORE himself never showed up at this meeting, or any other time on Merrit Island during the campaign or election.

[redacted] stated that MOORE was known to him only by reputation and being so very close to FORTENBERRY, he was certain that FORTENBERRY held no animosity towards MOORE or any member of the negro race.

[redacted] stated that FORTENBERRY, although very bitter, and still is over the outcome of this election, holds a group of 17 or 18 white persons who live on the other side of the river, meaning Cocoa, as the ones who actually beat him in the election. According to [redacted] FORTENBERRY's attitude concerning the negro votes was that the white people actually guided these negroes to vote the way they did.

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[redacted] recalled a meeting after the election at which FORTENBERRY; [redacted] an attorney by the name of [redacted] who has since left the Cocoa area and joined the armed forces and himself attended, the meeting being called by FORTENBERRY, and the purpose for it was trying to see some legal way in which they could bring the federal government in on an investigation, namely because of the vote buying that they felt took place but they just couldn't put their finger on it.

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[ ] stated he recalled the day of the election seeing negroes with white strips of paper in their hands which had names of FORTENBERRY's opposition written on which was indicative to him that the negroes had been paid to vote for FORTENBERRY's opposition.

[ ] stated he knew of no Klan activity in the Brevard County area and the last he could recall any Klan activity at all in this area was sometime when he was just a kid.

[ ] stated he has lived in this area his entire life during which time there has never been any racial problem whatsoever. It was [ ] feeling that whoever bombed the MOORE house were outsiders, meaning outside Brevard County, who were attempting to stir up racial problems in their community.

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[ ] stated that while he was very close to FORTENBERRY at one time, he now felt that FORTENBERRY, because of his bitter attitude, was a very poor loser and would never be successful again in running for any county position. As [ ] explained, FORTENBERRY had served his purpose in this county.

Again [ ] stressed that he was certain if FORTENBERRY held any animosity towards HARRY MOORE he, more than anyone else outside of [ ] would have known of such animosity and he concluded FORTENBERRY held no animosity towards HARRY MOORE or any other member of the negro race.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [ ] and FRED E. GORDON on January 17, 1952:

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BASIS: Interview Col. NOAH BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa and present Chairman of the Port Canaveral Project for any information concerning FORTENBERRY and/or pertinent to instant investigation.

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Colonel NOAH B. BUTT, Mayor of Cocoa, Florida, was interviewed in his law offices located in the Arcade Building at Cocoa, Florida, at which time he advised that he has known FORTENBERRY for a great many years. BUTT stated that since the County Commissioners election in 1950 FORTENBERRY has been very critical of everyone and everything and even former followers of his, including himself. BUTT advised that FORTENBERRY had taken the attitude of extreme bitterness toward the world and had set up a newspaper primarily to criticize the present officials in Brevard County.

BUTT stated that he had helped FORTENBERRY during the election but that he was very definitely criticizing him now in his newspaper writings.

BUTT stated he did not know MOORE although he knew him by reputation, mainly that he was very active in getting negro votes in Brevard County.

BUTT went on to advised he had never heard FORTENBERRY express any comments about MOORE during or after the campaign. However, as he recalled, several years ago when an individual by the name of [ ] who like NISBET was an independent and whom FORTENBERRY was supporting, that in behalf of [ ] FORTENBERRY had gone to Mims, Florida to talk to the negroes. Upon his return, according to BUTT, FORTENBERRY referred to MOORE as Professor MOORE. This, however, was the only comment concerning MOORE that he could ever recall.

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BUTT recalled that according to articles he read in FORTENBERRY's paper, FORTENBERRY's opposition in the County Commissioner election paid out more than \$35,000. to beat him,

BUTT stated he could not conceive of any angle, particularly at this end of the county, that might shed some light on the bombing of HARRY MOORE. BUTT stated that if it is a local proposition, namely Brevard County, it would have come from the Mims, Florida, area and not the southern



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part of the county.

BUTT advised that he was not aware of any recent KKK activity in Brevard County and as best he could recall, the last activity was sometime in the 20s. BUTT stated that it was his information that there is a branch of the KKK, the Order of Junior Mechanics, organized and active at Mims, Florida today. BUTT could furnish no names of the active members of this Order of Junior Mechanics.

Inssofar as any suspects in this matter, Colonel BUTTS stated that he was wondering whether or not the FBI had talked with [redacted] as [redacted] in his opinion, would be the only local individual who would have enough nerve to do such a flagrant act. According to BUTT, [redacted] was once [redacted] JOHNNIE WEATHERS who was, back sometime ago, a gambler and ran a bar in Cocoa, Florida. It was BUTTS' information that [redacted] was one of FORTENBERRY's supporters and was supposed to have influence over MOORE.

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BUTT stated that as he could recall, [redacted] has served time in Orlando, Florida for bad checks and also was involved in some sort of shooting scrape sometime ago in Titusville, Florida.

BUTT stated it was his honest and candid opinion that FORTENBERRY wouldn't have enough nerve to do any such act of violence and doesn't believe he would inspire anyone to do such a thing.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on January 10, 1952 at Vero Beach, Florida:

BASIS: Investigation at Cocoa, Florida, indicated the possibility one A. FORTENBERRY, may be implicated in bombing MOORE's residence. It was requested that Deputy Sheriff [redacted] Vero Beach, Florida, be interviewed for any knowledge in his possession concerning any connections between WEATHERS and [redacted] with the FORTENBERRY political machine. Also develop information as to FORTENBERRY's activities in Brevard County.

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[redacted] Deputy Sheriff, Indian River County, advised that he was a city policeman on the Cocoa, Florida, Police Department from [redacted] at which time he went with the Florida Highway Patrol. [redacted] stated that during the time he was a Cocoa City Policeman he arrested JOHN WEATHERS, who was the bolita big shot and also slot machines and tried to cause WEATHERS all the trouble he could in trying to break up his bolita and slot machine activity. He stated that [redacted] was one of WEATHERS' [redacted] continued that due to his causing WEATHERS so much trouble that WEATHERS and two of his men stopped him one night and it appeared that they were going to kill him. He later learned that the man that was supposed to have shot him, [redacted] in the back lost his nerve and would not do it.

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[redacted] stated that he does not know FORTENBERRY's connection with WEATHERS, however he has seen them talking and it appeared that they were friendly. He does not know what connection [redacted] had with FORTENBERRY, if any.

[redacted] stated that FORTENBERRY is a "tight mouth cracker" and would not tell any one anything and not trust anyone. He continued that at one time FORTENBERRY's son needed some help and his father, FORTENBERRY, would not help him at all and did not treat him as his son. [redacted] believes that this son is now dead. [redacted] stated that he does not know any of FORTENBERRY's illegal activities in that county.

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IV. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT EARL BROOKLYN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 15, and 16, 1952:

BASIS: The following individuals have been interviewed inasmuch as they are neighbors of suspect EARL BROOKLYN who resides in the Lake Mann area of Orlando, having address Route 3, Box 339E, Orlando.

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[redacted] Orlando, who has lived in the Lake Mann area for the past four years, residing on an unpaved street adjacent to the street on which BROOKLYN lives, furnished the following:

EARL BROOKLYN is a good neighbor, quiet, good natured, who is a sickly fellow, having been in the hospital a lot and had some of his insides cut out. [redacted] had had no "words" with BROOKLYN, does not know about any organizations BROOKLYN might belong to and has never heard that BROOKLYN was engaged in any Klan activity. BROOKLYN frequently goes fox hunting on Sunday mornings, having 12 gauge double barrel shotgun.

The only politics in which he has been engaged is that concerning the re-election of a Juvenile Judge MATILE MATTHEW (possibly [redacted])

[redacted] stated that the following other persons who were neighbors might know something about BROOKLYN:

[redacted] who lives [redacted] from [redacted]

[redacted] who lives around the corner.

[redacted] who is presently constructing a home on Lake Mann on a street close to BROOKLYN's home, has been [redacted] and has known of EARL BROOKLYN for the past ten years but has had little contact with him. Because he had dealt with EARL's wife personally, he had not seen EARL BROOKLYN in the past five years.

He has heard that EARL BROOKLYN goes off, supposedly on hunting trips, usually calling it "wild cat hunting" with the use of dogs.

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He has never heard that BROOKLYN was engaged in any political activity and does not know whether or not he is a member of the Klan.

When questioned as to the identity of any other individuals who might be members of the KLAN [redacted] stated that one PAT HALL (E. PAT HALL), a plasterer who lives in the Lake Mann area, was possibly in the Klan but he could not furnish any basis for this belief.

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An old man named [redacted] lives in the shack adjacent to the BROOKLYN home, according to [redacted].

[redacted] recommended that a neighbor [redacted] who had had a "falling out" with BROOKLYN several times over [redacted] be interviewed.

[redacted] whose home is located [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN resides, states that her home was moved to that location only five months ago, she knows nothing about the BROOKLYN family except of a minor nature. Their only contact with the BROOKLYN family was periodically [redacted]. Now that the [redacted] they have no reason to visit the BROOKLYN home.

[redacted] did remark that the BROOKLYNS seem to be home most of the time and are always using the phone, which is a party line. Concerning Christmas holidays, [redacted] stated that she visited her own folks and upon returning home at 4 or 5 P.M. Christmas day, cannot recall that the BROOKLYN jeep was at the BROOKLYN home. She is not positive but she does believe the jeep was missing.

[redacted] of EARL BROOKLYN, who resides [redacted] to the street on which BROOKLYN resides, furnished the following information:

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[redacted] started the interview by saying he has known EARL BROOKLYN 12 or 13 years and believes he knows him a little better than the other neighbors "he don't know nothing bad and he don't know nothing good; he's just a poor old man and understands he goes around beating people up;" BROOKLYN is violently anti-negro and PAT HALL (E. PAT HALL) is essentially the same type.

[redacted] related that about [redacted] ago he had a negro man working for him on a tractor. this negro journeyed to Georgia in order to [redacted]

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[redacted]  
[redacted] a group of five or seven hooded individuals (dressed in the white robes and hoods of the Ku Klux Klan) drove up to the [redacted] home in three cars. He believes that they drove from the direction of the BROOKLYN home inasmuch as [redacted]. These five or seven hooded individuals came up to the porch and as [redacted] came to the door, an individual whom he recognized by voice, build and clothing exposed below the robe to be EARL BROOKLYN, called out to him to come out.

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[redacted] asked BROOKLYN and his cohorts if they would come in and sit down that he didn't have anything to hide. Because the group insisted, [redacted] came out on his porch. BROOKLYN and an individual whom he recognized by voice, build and general appearance to be PAT HALL, grabbed [redacted] by the arms and forcibly moved him from his porch forward and in the direction of [redacted].

BROOKLYN asked [redacted]

[redacted] BROOKLYN also stated as he roughly grabbed [redacted] arm [redacted]

While this was going on [redacted] came out of the house from another entrance and came around toward the group as it approached the middle of the street. To his recollection, [redacted]

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Immediately after this statement by [redacted]

[redacted] stated they all hurriedly got into their automobiles and drove away.

[redacted] followed the path of the automobiles and observed that all cars drove up to the PAT HALL home, the occupants getting out and entering that home.

Immediately after this incident [redacted] called the Sheriff,

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JIM BLACK, who, after learning of the circumstances, advised [redacted] to "Kill everyone of them if they come back."

Several days later [redacted] was able to [redacted]

[redacted] and "things quieted down."

As a general observation [redacted] stated that he believed EARL BROOKLYN has been in on every negro killing in the area for many years.

[redacted] further related that his original difficulty with BROOKLYN arose from [redacted]

[redacted] He described BROOKLYN as being "mean to his kids" and having run off his eldest daughter after she had had a baby (apparently illegitimate). Another associate of BROOKLYN and PAT HALL, according to [redacted] is a man by the name of SMITH MANNING (SIMON SMITH MANNING) who lives in one of PAT HALL's houses and who used to work for the government.

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He related an incident whereby after they had removed all the valuable furnishings from a certain house owned by HALL, he HALL arranged for MANNING to burn this house. He states that [redacted] in Orlando after being [redacted] for several years, told him that [redacted] could hang HALL and MANNING for what [redacted] and could send them to the chain gang for life.

Recently PAT HALL and EARL BROOKLYN testified for MANNING at an alimony hearing before Judge MURPHY or SMITH in Orlando, trying to convince the Judge that [redacted] was married again and was not entitled to alimony.

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[redacted] was satisfied that BROOKLYN was involved in an [redacted] case in which a negro house was burned several years ago. He described BROOKLYN and PAT HALL as "sorry individuals of an ignorant type who are easily lead and who could be induced to do anything that was mean, being easily agitated." He related that BROOKLYN had a good way of getting out of town, calling it "fox hunting".

[redacted] who is known as [redacted] Orlando, who has resided at the Lake Mann section of Orlando for the past 27 years, stated he has known EARL BROOKLYN for many years. BROOKLYN does not go to Church, operates through the Klan lodges (which [redacted] cannot substantiate directly) and will never come out straight and tell

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you he is a Klansman, is pretty hard and has been raised in such a manner that he doesn't care about anyone, having lots of nerve and absolutely fearless. BROOKLYN is a man you cannot do anything with, according to [redacted]

BROOKLYN and PAT HALL are close friends and are, as indicated by their past actions and statements, Klansmen. SMITH MANNING runs around with both HALL and BROOKLYN but [redacted] does not know whether or not he is a Klansman. He did describe MANNING as a worse character than either HALL or BROOKLYN, stating that MANNING's word is worth nothing. He believed MANNING had served time in Raiford for stealing.

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MANNING and Pat Hall are very close friends but BROOKLYN and MANNING "don't line up so good", according to the opinion of [redacted]

[redacted] had never seen any hooded activities in the Lake Manassas area but did hear of the incident whereby [redacted]

[redacted] His account was similar to that furnished by [redacted] except that he does not know who did it inasmuch as he did not see the incident.

He believes that BROOKLYN, who is a negro hater, would go the limit in activities against the negro race, having been raised in the small town of Ocoee, which is two or three miles outside of Winter Garden, Florida. He related that for many years only one negro family was allowed to reside in Ocoee as a result of a riot in 1918 in which a number of negroes were killed and all the rest of them were run out of town. For many years negroes would not go through the town for fear of violence.

BROOKLYN's eldest daughter has been away from home two or three years, staying in St. Petersburg, Florida most of the time although visiting home occasionally. He could not consider EARL BROOKLYN as a good companion even for his own family, being overbearing and extremely unreasonable.

[redacted] has never heard PAT HALL talk very much about negroes except to state they should stay in their place. He described PAT HALL as a plasterer working for a contractor named [redacted], as follows:

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Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	50

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Height	5'10"
Weight	175
Hair	Sandy, graying.

He believes HALL was arrested at Tampa, Florida and that his wife comes from South Georgia.

SMITH MANNING known to [redacted] as S. S. MANNING, treated his first wife very badly. [redacted] suggested that one of the older residents of the area is a Mr. JOHN TODD, a barber at the Angebilt Hotel, whose wife works at Purcell's clothing store in Orlando, who lives east and across the street from PAT HALL.

When questioned specifically on the Groveland case [redacted] stated he did not know whether or not any of the three individuals, BROOKLYN, PAT HALL or S. S. MANNING had anything to do with the violence directed toward negroes arising out of that rape case but thought that the majority of the people in this part of the State were against the negroes accused in the case.

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[redacted] has never heard any of the above three mentioned in connection with the Miami or Mims bombings, and could furnish no information concerning those cases. He has never actually associated with BROOKLYN, HALL or MANNING and in fact has not spoken to BROOKLYN in about four months. He suggested that [redacted] who lives near the Methodist Church in the neighborhood might have some information concerning the whereabouts of [redacted].



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 17 and 18, 1952:

BASIS: PAT HALL was alleged to be a close associate of a major suspect of this case, EARL BROOKLYN, and a member of the Klan.

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EZEKIAL PATRICK HALL, also known as PAT HALL, Route 3, Box 332, Orlando, who resides in the Lake Mann section of Orlando approximately three blocks from the residence of EARL BROOKLYN, was interviewed at the Orlando Resident Agency on January 18, 1952 after having made a telephone call to that residency office on January 17, 1952.

Prior to the actual interview he wanted to know whether the FBI was ever to his place, claiming he had heard some officer had come to arrest his tenant, MANNING, for stealing government property at the Air Base. He was unable to recall who gave him this information but indicated that if a "crook" was living on his place he was the first one that wanted to know about it so he could get him out.

HALL stated he has known SIMON SMITH MANNING 12 or 14 years but has never known anything crooked about him. He denied he has ever seen MANNING at any Klan meeting but believed generally that MANNING joined the Klan about the same time he (HALL) joined or was reinstated three or four years ago. He insisted he had never discussed the Mims explosion and specifically denied ever discussing it with SIMON SMITH MANNING.

He has known EARL BROOKLYN about 12 or 14 years but claims he cannot say whether or not EARL BROOKLYN was ever a member of the Klan. It should be mentioned that HALL took the position that his oath to the Klan forbade him to divulge the identity of any other persons who were members of the Klan. HALL's blunt statement was "I have never been a pimp and I am too late to start now." He claimed he had never seen EARL BROOKLYN at a Klan meeting.

HALL insists that EARL BROOKLYN is not his friend, that the only time he ever sees BROOKLYN is when he (BROOKLYN) wants to have some work done for nothing. BROOKLYN has never visited his home in four years and HALL cannot recall how long it is since he has been in BROOKLYN's home.

HALL admitted that he joined the Klan in 1919 after he came out of the Army and maintained his membership until a short time after ROOSEVELT

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was elected, possibly 1933. Between the years 1933 and approximately 1947-48 he was inactive and did not have any connection whatsoever with the Klan. Three or four years ago he was reinstated in the Klan (has no idea why he was reinstated and refused to divulge the identity of any person who induced him to be reinstated) and "decided to donate \$10. to them." He claims he attended only two meetings after being reinstated, those meetings being at Rogers Hall on Pine Street, Orlando. After these two meetings he decided he was tired and wanted to stay home and thus became inactive in the Klan. He claims he seldom goes anywhere, has only been fishing twice since the end of World War II and hasn't been hunting since 1941 but prefers to spend his time at home.

HALL insists he has never worn a hood and has not worn the robe in three or four years, claiming he did not believe in any hooded activities of the Klan and was firmly against any rough house activities.

When questioned concerning his attitude toward the negro he stated he has nothing against the negro race, liked and respected all negroes, has never called a "nigger a nigger to his face" and doesn't believe in the mistreatment of any negro but rather to let the law take its course. He claims negroes are very essential to his work, that some of them have been working for him and with him for years.

He related an incident of how he came upon a group of negroes who were discussing fundamental differences between white people and colored people. He told them that since they don't have any respect for each other, always calling each other "niggers" and other uncomplimentary names, how could they expect white people to have any respect for them. He insisted he had never been in any negro whippings and didn't believe in them.

HALL related that the only time he had any contact with EARL BROOKLYN in recent months was on Friday January 11, 1952 when EARL BROOKLYN telephoned him and asked him to buy a hog with him and split it. He went out with EARL BROOKLYN, looked at the hog and decided that it was too fat.

When questioned about HARRY MOORE, HALL stated he had never even heard the name until the date of this interview.

When questioned about the explosion in which HARRY MOORE was killed, he claimed that the first time he heard of it was from his wife when she told him a week or ten days after the explosion that someone had been killed in Daytona Beach. He denied ever having seen the plans of HARRY

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MOORE's home and also denies he had ever discussed the Mims explosion with anyone.

HALL claims he does not know ~~TILLMAN BELVIN~~.

It should be noted that when questioned concerning his activities on Christmas day, 1951, HALL furnished essentially the same information as previously furnished by SIMON SMITH MANNING; that he and his family and relatives and the MANNINGS remained home all day and had Christmas dinner at his home.

HALL stated that when he was a young man he used considerable dynamite in removing stumps, clearing land. He advised he has not used any dynamite for several years and that he was getting pretty old to start using any now.

The following is a description of HALL as obtained through interrogation and observation:

Name	EZEKIAL PATRICK HALL, also known as PAT HALL
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	3-25-95
Place of birth	DeSoto County, Florida
Height	5'9"
Weight	208
Eyes	Hazel brown, wears horn rimmed glasses
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars and marks	Hemorrhoid operation
Father	JOE H. HALL, deceased
Mother	BELLE COLLIER, deceased
Wife	CLARA NEWTON, married at Clearwater, 1927
Son	J. DAVIS HALL, deceased
Daughter	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 300px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> who resides adjacent to PAT HALL
Education	9th grade, Limestone, Florida
Employment	Plasterer, KUHN and YOUTSEY, Orlando since 11-50

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Prior employment	Lee Brothers of Sanford, Florida on State buildings at Chattahoochee and Tallahassee, Florida in 1948-49 Self-employed as PAT's Plasterers and also as PICK and PAT, plasterers in Orlando off and on since 1936. Civilian employment construction Banana River NAS, 1942-44. Prior to 1936 law enforcement town of Sulphur Springs and Hillsborough County, Florida.
Residence	Route 3, Box 332, Lake Mann Section, Orange County near Orlando, Florida.
Previous address	8609 10th Street, Tampa, Florida prior to 1936.

Fingerprints were taken of HALL as well as photographs in various  
poses.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MELCH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 16 and 17, 1952:

BASIS: SIMON SMITH MANNING is reported to be a close associate of suspect EARL BROOKLYN.

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Civil Service Clerk at the Orlando Air Force Base, Orlando, Florida, made available the personnel record of SIMON SMITH MANNING which reflected the following information:

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He was originally employed as a Junior pump operator, Grade 6, in the Post Engineers Water Department on the base May 5, 1943 at which time he gave as his previous experience painting and general work. There was a notice on the record that in September, 1949 he was examined by the Orange Memorial Hospital for osteomyelitis of the left thigh. His previous employment was listed as follows:

1924-25 U. S. Army  
1932-39 Grove worker  
Portion of time 11-37 to 2-49 Spray pump operator by S. D. WEBB, Ocoee, Florida  
1939-42 WPA relief  
11-42 to 5-43 Concrete worker  
4-43 Yellow Taxi driver, Orlando  
10-43 to 10-49 Orlando Air Force Base  
10-26-49 to 1-2-51 C. F. KUNZE, farm, Indian River City, Florida.

Following is an approximate list of the residences of SIMON SMITH MANNING as obtained from the employment file:

1933-43 Church Street on Lake Mann, Orlando  
1943-46 1035 30th Street, Orlando  
1944-45 527 S. Osceola Street, Orlando  
1945-47 876 27th Street, Orlando (note extreme discrepancies)  
5-46 to 8-49 896 27th Street, Orlando  
8-49 to 11-49 Hughey Street near Fairbanks Avenue, Orlando.  
11-49 to 7-50 Cheney Highway, Orlando  
7-50 to 12-50 Vero Beach on Highway 60, Florida  
latest address (12-31-51) Bob's Service Station, Cheney Highway, Orlando.

It should be noted there is considerable discrepancy in the dates

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and places of residence and the residence in Indian River City, Florida, was not given.

He made application for reemployment at the Air Force Base August 1, 1949 at which time he listed as reference PAT HALL of Lake Mann, Orlando, a plasterer; ELLIOTT HALL, 43rd Street, Orlando, insurance and C. F. KUNZE of 37 E. Central, Orlando, real estate operator. At the time of his original application for employment he listed as references Mars Roebuck; PURCELL Clothing and HOLLY ROBSON Motors of Orlando.

After applying for re-employment January 2, 1951 he executed form #57 (Application for Federal Employment - Appointment Affidavit) on January 3, 1951, which form in Section A contained a routine oath of office and in Section B contained the oath in which he swore he was not affiliated with any organization which advocated the overthrow of the United States Government and/or "was seeking by force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the constitution of the United States."

MANNING also denied he had ever been convicted of a crime the penalty of which was in excess of \$25.00 fine. It should be noted that a false statement in connection with the execution of this statement is a violation of Title 18, Section 80 of the United States Code.

The following is the identification record contained in the personnel file of SIMON SMITH MANNING under FBI #3312821 as received from the Identification Division of the Bureau under date of December 1, 1947:

PD, Orlando - S. S. MANNING #1797, 5-23-29, Larceny of chickens, no disp.

PD, Orlando, SIMON ~~S~~MANNING #415 - App., Cab driver, 3-13-43

C.S.C., Wash. - S. S. ~~M~~MANNING, appl. 5-5-43

Air Force Ident. - S. S. MANNING WAR 20-2-14-1, 14th A.F. Orlando 11-25-47.

According to the record, MANNING was on leave without pay from his employment as senior water pump station operator from April 22, 1951 until October 20, 1951. At this latter date he returned to work at the Base and is still employed as water pumping station operator.

checked his records and ascertained that MANNING was on annual leave on Monday, December 24, 1951 and did not return to work until Wednesday, December 26, 1951 at 8 A.M.

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[redacted] who is MANNING's immediate supervisor, advised MANNING has worked for him for the past seven years during which time he never heard him express the opinion any anti-negro sentiments but MANNING has expressed the opinion to him that activity against negroes is wrong.

He described MANNING as an ignorant sort of fellow who seems honest and very reliable in his work. MANNING is always hard up for money, possibly because of the alimony he has to pay to his first wife. He has never heard MANNING talk about the Mims explosion but has heard him say in discussing the Miami explosions that he would not do anything like that if it was the last thing he did in the world.

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[redacted] who formerly read electric meters in the Lake Mann Section of Orlando prior to eight or nine years ago, states he is not acquainted with any Klan or anti-negro activities in that section. He knows MANNING lives in the Lake Mann section with PAT HALL, paying about \$25.00 a month rent.

[redacted] Assistant Clerk of the Criminal Court, Orlando, Florida, made available the following records concerning SIMON SMITH MANNING:

Under Docket #15020 an information was filed against MANNING, charging him with Grand Larceny on May 22, 1929. On a plea of guilty he was sentenced to five months in jail from the date of arrest and was sentenced to an additional six months at the expiration of this sentence, the date of the sentence being June 7, 1929. This record is under Docket #29, page 437.

Under Docket #15021 S. S. MANNING was charged with petty larceny and received a suspended sentence June 7, 1929.

Under docket 10522, S. S. MANNING Et Al were charged with petty larceny May 22, 1929, pled guilty and received a suspended sentence on June 7, 1929.

Under Docket #15023, S. S. MANNING, Et Al, were charged with petty larceny May 22, 1929 and received a suspended sentence under plea of guilty June 7, 1929.

Under Docket #15101 S. S. MANNING was charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony and grand larceny and on June 19,

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1929 on a plea of guilty was fined \$500, and costs or six months. This is recorded in Docket 29, page 518.

Under Docket 19097 S. S. MANNING was charged with receiving stolen goods, pled guilty and received a suspended sentence October 15, 1930.

[REDACTED] Clerk of the Criminal Court, Orlando, advised that the old records reflecting the identity of those associated with MANNING in several of the above cases, could be made available only after extensive search through old records.

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On January 17, 1952 at 10:25 A.M. Agents MEECH and SHANNON contacted SIMON SMITH MANNING at his home in a garage apartment owned by PAT HALL, which apartment is located in a small building behind the PAT HALL home in the Lake Mann section of Orlando.

Immediately on first contact a waiver of search was obtained from SIMON SMITH MANNING, being executed by him and his wife, Mrs. THELMA MANNING. Nothing of value to this investigation was noticed in this search except an 1897 Winchester, model, 12 gauge pump shotgun, serial D-417115, which MANNING claims he purchased from PAT HALL approximately 10 years ago.

Mrs. MANNING advised she had a snap shot of EARL BROOKLYN and her husband which she voluntarily gave to the Agents.

SIMON SMITH MANNING consented to accompany the Agents to the Orlando Resident Agency where he furnished the following information:

He has known EARL BROOKLYN approximately 19 to 20 years, having first made his acquaintance at Ocoee, Florida. He has known PAT HALL since 1936 or 1937 which is approximately the time HALL moved out to the Lake Mann section of Orlando.

He has known one CURLY BELVIN, who formerly operated a garage, for about four or five years.

EARL BROOKLYN approached him four or five years ago, in 1947-48, at his home at 1035 30th Street, Orlando, and asked him to join the Ku Klux Klan. EARL explained that it was just like going to church. He filled out an application and paid a \$10. initiation fee to join the West Orange Branch of what he believes to be the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.



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It was about three weeks after filling out the applicant (some-  
time prior to Orange County Sheriff's election in which DAVE STARR re-  
placed JIM BLACK, that he attended his first meeting of the Ky Klux Klan  
in a large concrete block building on the New Winter Garden Road near the  
first lake out of Orlando. MANNING was very indefinite as to what was dis-  
cussed at the meeting but believes they were talking about "the big man"  
who had served time in a federal penitentiary and was the National Leader  
of the Klan. He stated that some tall man was the leader of the discussion  
at the meeting and EARL BROOKLYN; [redacted] who operates a service sta-  
tion; TILLMAN BELVIN and a man named [redacted] were present at this  
first meeting. He claims PAT HALL was not present at any of the meetings  
but that EARL BROOKLYN attended all the meetings. There were approximate-  
ly 15 or 20 at each meeting.

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The password was "A White Man" and the only secret given to him  
was "Old Man AYAK" (phonetic)(which he could not explain).

Two or three weeks later he received a letter to come to the  
club for a meeting and attended the meeting at the same place. He claimed  
he did not like the way "they were talking", he said that the people in  
the discussion were anti-negro, didn't like negroes and made a reference  
to a "bad nigger". This negro was not mentioned by name but it was in-  
dicated that he lived somewhere in Orlando.

MANNING claims it was several weeks later that he attended his  
third meeting of the Klan and never returned for any other meeting. He  
said during that meeting they talked about a man beating his wife. It  
should be noted that MANNING was very evasive in answering questions about  
his activities in the Klan and the activities of other persons such as  
EARL BROOKLYN and PAT HALL.

MANNING volunteered nothing and virtually pled ignorance to  
most questions. When asked why he joined the Klan he repeatedly replied  
that it was a "dumb trick" on his part but refused to explain why.  
When questioned for his reasons why he discontinued attending Klan meet-  
ings he made the general statement that he was afraid of what might  
happen and would not explain his fears despite persistent questioning  
along that line.

MANNING advised that he has never had any discussions on any of  
the recent terrorist activities in the State of Florida, specifically,  
he indicated his only discussion concerning the explosion at Mims, Florida,  
was merely to mention to his supervisor, [redacted] that the culprits

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should be apprehended and prosecuted. He indicated that he thought it was "awful that the poor woman died" (referring to HARRIETT MOORE). At no time has he ever discussed any Klan activities with regard to the recent explosions in Miami, Mims, Florida or the terrorist activities in the Orlando area with either PAT HALL or EARL BROOKLYN, except after hearing on the radio about the Mims explosion and the killing of HARRY MOORE, that he remarked to PAT HALL that the perpetrators should be hanged. The following day PAT HALL said to him "Did you really mean what you said about the Mims explosion?" MANNING said he replied to HALL "I certainly did". There was no further discussion with PAT HALL on this event.

MANNING said it was his opinion that EARL BROOKLYN liked negroes as he did but felt they should stay in their place. Similarly PAT HALL had respect for negroes and liked them providing they stayed in their place.

When repeatedly questioned about the ideas, attitudes and activities of EARL BROOKLYN and PAT HALL, MANNING would insist that whenever HALL and BROOKLYN discussed anything they would not take him into their confidence but rather would walk aside from MANNING and talk in secret even though MANNING was the only other person in the group.

MANNING stated he has never heard PAT HALL say that he ever belonged to the Klan and does not know whether EARL BROOKLYN presently belongs to the Klan. He insists he has never worn a Klan robe in his life.

MANNING, who lived in Ocoee, Florida when he was first married, resided at Orlovista on Old Winter Garden Road outside Orlando at the time he was arrested in Orlando in 1929. The persons who were arrested with him on several of the charges are [redacted] who is presently in the Insane Asylum at Chattahoochee, Florida and [redacted] of Chiefland, Florida whom he has not seen in over four years.

MANNING related that he went to work for [redacted] at his grove near Indian River City, Florida (which is only a few miles south of Mims, Florida) in October, 1949. He drove a tractor and lived next to one [redacted] whose residence is owned by one [redacted], who lives in a trailer west of Indian River City.

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MANNING claims he knows [redacted], Brevard County Patrolman who operates out of Titusville. He states he left Indian River City

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in July, 1950 and went to Vero Beach, Florida, where he and his wife, [redacted] whom he had married at Fort Pierce, Florida, June 26, 1950, were employed and resided on a cow ranch 26 miles north of Vero Beach on Route 60, which was owned by [redacted]. They never went anywhere while on that ranch except to purchase supplies.

[redacted] left the ranch in December, 1950 to spend Christmas of 1950 with [redacted] aunt, a MARY BROWN, Starke, Florida. Thereafter they stayed a month at [redacted] Service Station in Orlando and in April, 1951 spent three months at PAT HALL's house and two months at a house adjacent to [redacted] Service Station and six months at [redacted] on Cheney Highway, Orlando and finally about two months ago moved to the present residence owned by PAT HALL.

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MANNING accounted for his whereabouts during the Christmas holidays as follows:

He worked at the Base until 8 A.M. Friday, December 21, 1951 and did not return to work until 8 A.M. Wednesday, December 26, 1951. He went home and stayed around the house, ate lunch at 11:30 or 12 Noon and later that afternoon drove to Leesburg. They stayed Friday night, December 21, 1951 at the home of [redacted] 2½ miles north of Leesburg, Florida. [redacted] and THELMA MANNING shopped at the stores in Leesburg Saturday afternoon while [redacted] was sleeping inasmuch as he has the night shift at the Minute Maid plant.

They left Saturday evening at 11 or 12 Midnight to return to Lake Mann because [redacted] brother and his family had come to visit and stay overnight at the [redacted] home Saturday. The MANNINGS returned to their home about 1:30 A.M., Sunday, December 23, 1951.

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He arose about 7 A.M. and stayed in and about his home all day Sunday. During most of that day PAT HALL and his son-in-law, [redacted] who resides in the concrete house adjacent to PAT HALL, worked on their cars and trucks parked in the back yard.

After arising Monday morning at 6:30 A.M. MANNING did nothing except stay around the house and remembers remarking to his wife that he could have been working that Monday, December 24, 1951. He had arranged for [redacted] to take his place at the Base Christmas eve because he and his wife had planned to go to Starke, Florida for the Christmas holidays. He changed his mind because he had no money to make the trip.

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Monday morning MANNING had a few drinks of liquor with PAT HALL and a man who lives next to [redacted] the liquor being supplied by PAT HALL. About 2:30 to 3:00 P.M. on December 24, 1951 he went fishing on Lake Mann with a 13 year old boy named [redacted] who resides across the street from PAT HALL. [redacted] supplied the boat and they caught 12 speckled perch. Upon returning home from fishing about 6:30 P.M. MANNING discovered his wife was at the home of PAT HALL. He put the fish in a tub in the back yard to show them to [redacted] who happened to be out in the back yard at the time. He had supper with PAT HALL inasmuch as [redacted] had already been invited to eat supper at the HALL's.

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After supper he cleaned the fish, put them in PAT HALL's deep freeze and went home to bed at 8 or 8:30 P.M. He claims there was no Christmas ceremony at his home, there was no Christmas tree and neither he nor his wife attended church and that he and his wife opened their presents the previous Thursday.

He arose at 7:30 A.M. on Christmas morning and stayed in and around his home and the PAT HALL home all that day chatting with PAT HALL and [redacted] who were continually working on their stock racing cars. At about 1:30 or 1 P.M. Christmas day he and his wife had Christmas dinner with PAT HALL and his wife, CLARA; also present at the dinner were Mrs. HALL's sister and her two daughters from Savannah, Georgia. After the meal the women folks stayed inside PAT HALL's house while he and PAT went outside and sat on the steps while work continued on the cars and in the tool house the rest of the day.

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The only person MANNING saw on Christmas day in addition to the HALLS and their relatives, was the man who lives adjacent to [redacted] MANNING claims he went to bed Christmas night at 8 or 8:30 P.M. and arose at 6 A.M. Wednesday, December 26, 1951 in order to go to work.

MANNING claims that the only hooded Klan activity he has ever seen in his life was that which occurred many years ago when approximately 80 hooded men paraded past the OldSaratoga Hotel in Orlando.

Concerning EARL BROOKLYN's activities generally SIMON SMITH MANNING believes that EARL has been in the Ku Klux Klan for about 10 years. He knows EARL BROOKLYN goes fox hunting with an Uncle WALT who worked for Orange County and lives off the New Winter Garden Road. He has not hunted with EARL BROOKLYN in about eight or nine months and that was when they went out with Captain HARDING, the chain gang warden.

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He last saw and spoke with EARL BROOKLYN late Sunday afternoon, January 13, 1952 when he and PAT HALL went down to the BROOKLYN home to borrow an axe to chop some wood. At that time EARL BROOKLYN wasn't very sociable, kept his back toward them and just yelled out that the axe was his wife's, EARL's daughter brought the axe to them. He claims that's the only time he's seen BROOKLYN since Christmas and does not know whether or not EARL BROOKLYN was home on Christmas day or whether or not BROOKLYN is in the habit of going off at night because he lives too far from the BROOKLYN home to observe BROOKLYN's activities.

He further states that PAT HALL, whom he believes was a deputy sheriff or a policeman at Tampa, Florida at one time, does not go fox hunting, and, in fact, hardly ever goes anywhere, preferring to work on his trucks and automobiles and about his house.

MANNING states that a [redacted] who lives in Orlovista, used to work as a plasterer for PAT HALL.

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The following is a description of SIMON SMITH MANNING as obtained through interrogation and observation:

Name	SIMON SMITH MANNING, also known as Smith Manning and S. S. manning
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	5-19-03
Place of birth	Starke, Florida
Height	5'11"
Weight	170
Build	Medium
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Medium brown, thinning, balding
Complexion	Sallow
Scars and marks	appendix scar; cut scar 1"x $\frac{1}{2}$ " below left elbow; tattoo woman's face "GERTY" right forearm.
Education	6th grade at Starke, Florida
FBI	#3312821
Social Security	265-12-5638
Employment	Senior water pumping station operator, Orlando Air Force Base
Residence	Route #3, Box 332, Lake Mann Section Orlando, Florida.

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Wife	[REDACTED]
Father	DAVID MANNING, deceased
Brothers	CLARENCE MANNING, Lake Wales, Florida LOUIS MANNING " " " CLEVE MANNING, Jacksonville, Florida
Former wife	VICIE HILLIARD, married Orlando, 1926, divorced 1949
Daughter	[REDACTED]

Photographs in various poses were voluntarily furnished by MANNING.

Upon the completion of the interview with SIMON SMITH MANNING he was accompanied home by Agents MEECE and SHANNON and thereafter immediately drove his car to work [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] who is 30 years of age having been born at Nichols, Georgia, whose first husband was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SIMON SMITH MANNING for work. She verified the account of his activities over the Christmas holidays of 1951 as previously furnished by SIMON SMITH MANNING and also verified the employment and activities of MANNING at Indian River City and near Vero Beach, Florida.

[REDACTED] SIMON SMITH MANNING, used to belong to the Klan but that he has not had anything to do with the Klan in recent years, [REDACTED] has never spoken of any activities or sentiments which are anti-negro. She herself believes that the negroes are all right as long as they stay in their place and that [REDACTED] has the same attitude. She has not visited the BROOKLYN home and EARL BROOKLYN has only visited her home once.

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[REDACTED] indicated she did not have any sympathy with the Klan or its activities and she would not desire [REDACTED] to be affiliated with the Klan or associated with any of its members. She indicated a willingness to cooperate with the FBI and said she would talk with [REDACTED] and try to get him to voluntarily furnish any information concerning Klan activities to the FBI if he has any knowledge which has not been furnished.

She stated that invariably [REDACTED] goes to bed at 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening because he has long hours and he rarely goes out at night. She insists SMITH is not the sort of person who chums with

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anybody and the only persons whom she knows he is acquainted with are PAT  
HALL, EARL BROOKLYN, [redacted] who works for the KEENEHAN Ranch, [redacted]  
[redacted] and CURLY BELVIN. [redacted] mention a [redacted]  
but she does not know him.

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[redacted] states she has never heard EARL BROOKLYN discuss  
negroes because she has known him only about a year and he has never  
spoken about any Klan activity or his attitude toward negroes.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 15, 1952:

BASIS: VICIE MANNING was interviewed inasmuch as she is a former wife of SIMON SMITH MANNING, a close associate of suspect EARL BROOKLYN.

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VICIE MANNING, nee HILLIARD, of 1035 30th Street, Orlando, employed by the Publix Market, College Park, Orlando, furnished the following information:

She has been divorced from SIMON SMITH MANNING two and a half years and knows little of his activities since the divorce. She has heard her former husband SIMON SMITH MANNING belonged to the Ku Klux Klan but she insists she knows nothing about the Klan or any terrorist activities and never heard MANNING or his closest associates and neighbors, PAT HALL and EARL BROOKLYN, discuss racial prejudices, and further insists that SMITH MANNING never told her anything about his activities away from home. If she asked him any questions about his activities he is alleged to have told her that she should take care of the house and not bother with his outside activities.

She knew EARL BROOKLYN in 1926 when they were neighbors but had little contact with him advising that BROOKLYN visited their home only once and that was many years ago. SMITH MANNING went with a woman by the name of [redacted] after being separated from her (VICIE MANNING) and has remarried, possibly to [redacted]

The last time she saw SMITH was in the office of Judge SMITH, Orlando at an alimony hearing in November, 1951. Since leaving her SMITH MANNING has resided over Bob's Service Station in Orlando or with PAT HALL in the Lake Mann section of Orlando. She believed SMITH MANNING was presently working as a pump operator at the Orlando Air Base.

She mentioned [redacted], a contract garbage collector, [redacted] Orlando, as a person who probably associated with MANNING, BROOKLYN and PAT HALL. Years ago SMITH MANNING owned a pump shotgun which he might still have in his possession. EARL BROOKLYN's wife is named ANNIE and PAT HALL's wife is named CLARA HALL.

Mrs. VICIE MANNING moved from the Lake Mann section of Orlando



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seven or eight years ago. She has never met TILLMAN BELVIN but heard  
PET HALL speak of having his car repaired at BELVIN's station.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 15, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, [redacted] at the Hames Avenue plant of Super Concrete Company, Orlando.

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[redacted], who is known as [redacted] Orlando, telephone 3-0394, who has [redacted] at the Hames Avenue plant of the Super Concrete Company, Orlando, for the past two years and previously a driver out of the same plant for an additional two years, furnished the following information concerning suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN who has been employed for the past four years as a driver operating out of that plant:

Brooklyn earns \$.90 an hour for a 50 hour week, prior to present employment he was in the fruit business and engaged in commercial fishing. He does not associate with BROOKLYN and therefore does not know too much of his outside or social activities. However, he does know that BROOKLYN lives in the Lake Mann section of Orlando, goes hunting a lot, frequently talking of hunting trips with [redacted] on Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando and with a wealthy rancher TOM RICE.

BROOKLYN reported for work every day clost to the Christmas holidays except for the four day holiday commencing Saturday, December 22, 1951 and ending Christmas day, BROOKLYN reported for work Wednesday morning, December 26, 1951.

[redacted] advised that BROOKLYN is a likable fellow except for the fact he is prejudiced against negroes. BROOKLYN has expressed anti-negro sentiments and strenuously objected to the construction of a new negro high school in the area and expressed his extreme dislike for the new negro project constructed by the Housing Authority of the City of Orlando on the side of Lake Mann opposite his residence.

BROOKLYN, who has lived in the Orlando area all of his life, is supposed to be known to everyone in West Orange County, Florida, BROOKLYN has discussed the Groveland case and the [redacted] case but the discussion was mainly based on information obtained from the newspapers and was of a general nature.

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He has heard people say that BROOKLYN is in the Klan but could not furnish the identity of any person who could definitely state of his own knowledge that BROOKLYN was a member. He described BROOKLYN as a man of violent temper who tries to act tough, who reads a lot in the newspaper about politics and sports and does not hesitate to talk about both and express his own opinions about them.

He has never heard BROOKLYN pass any remark about the Mims case except possibly in connection with some newspaper article. At one time BROOKLYN made the remark, "If we don't watch out the negroes will control everything in ten years and we might even have a negro President." BROOKLYN seems to believe he has some influence in politics and has been generally talking to people in order to oust MATTIE FARMER, Woman Juvenile Judge of Orange County, Florida. He talks as though he could have anyone thrown out of office.

[redacted] knows nothing of BROOKLYN's actual activities of an anti-negro nature or direct activities as a member of the Klan.

To further illustrate BROOKLYN's personality and character, Mr. [redacted] states that he has noticed that if BROOKLYN engaged in a friendly wrestling match with a person he would make every effort to actually hurt that person out of meanness. BROOKLYN, who has a very fast, violent temper, was operated on by a [redacted] two or three years ago because of ulcers and had a part of his stomach removed. In the past week or so, he had X-rays taken at the Florida Sanatorium. To [redacted] knowledge, BROOKLYN has never had anything to do with dynamite and does not own any pump shot gun. He does own a double barrel 12 gauge shot gun.

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BROOKLYN at one time tried to induce [redacted], a former employee at the Plant, to join the Klan,

BROOKLYN's wife, ANNIE, is in the habit of driving him to work in their medium green jeep, which has a canvas top over the front seat and has yellow trim. He has two daughters, one [redacted] who is about 20 years of age, and the second daughter 14 or 15 years of age, who is known by the name of [redacted]

[redacted] has been at the BROOKLYN home on two occasions for social visits. [redacted] had never heard of an individual named TILLMAN BELVIN (who has been considered a suspect in this case).

The following other employees of the Super Concrete Company, know EARL BROOKLYN, according to [redacted]

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a driver  
a driver  
batchman, all at the Hanes Avenue plant  
driver at temporary plant, Pinecastle Air Base  
also at the Pinecastle Base.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD, January 3 through 17, 1952:

BASIS: To check criminal and credit records for EARL J. BROOKLYN in an attempt to ascertain some background information on Brooklyn. Informants have stated that BROOKLYN was possibly one of the persons who inquired about HARRY T. MOORE in Mims, Florida in August, 1951.

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No credit record was located for EARL J. BROOKLYN at the Credit Bureau of Orlando.

No criminal record was located for BROOKLYN at the Orange County Sheriff's Office or at the Orlando Police Department.

Records of the Florida State License Tag Bureau, Orange County Courthouse, Orlando, Florida, reflect that EARL BROOKLYN is the owner of a 1946 Willys jeep bearing 1951 Florida license L7D-376.

Confidential Informant T-1 of known reliability advised that on [redacted] BROOKLYN contacted an unknown person at Winter Park, Florida telephone 4-2521. On [redacted] BROOKLYN contacted [redacted] Winter Garden, Florida.

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The informant stated further that on November 22, 1951 BROOKLYN contacted [redacted] Florida #4834.

Informant stated that during the month of December, 1951 BROOKLYN made numerous contacts with [redacted] Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and CLIDE P. ADERHOLD on January 23 and 24, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, mentioned as engaged in KKK activities in Orlando and Winter Garden area.

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[redacted] of suspect EARL J. BROOKLYN, advised [redacted] Orlando, Florida. [redacted] advised that he was born and reared in the vicinity of Ocoee, Florida but since his youth he has not been closely associated with [redacted]

[redacted] advised that [redacted] he spent Christmas day at his home and knew nothing of the activities of EARL during the Christmas holidays. [redacted]

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[redacted] advised that he first joined the Klan at the age [redacted]. He advised that [redacted] suspect EARL BROOKLYN, who is [redacted] joined the KKK at about the same time as [redacted]. [redacted] advised he has attended Klan meetings in both Orlando and Winter Garden, Florida, that he has always been active in the Association of Georgia Klans and knew nothing regarding the activities of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. [redacted] advised that he has never been an officer in any Klan.

[redacted] advised that [redacted]. [redacted] He advised he has attended meetings but [redacted] he had never been "out on any jobs" with the exception of actively engaging with a group of Klan members, 10 or 12 years ago, in obtaining and furnishing baskets of food and supplies to needy families in an around Ocoee, Florida. [redacted] explained that a groups of Klan members sought the assistance of a Minister in Ocoee to obtain the names of needy persons to which baskets were given on this project.

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The only other incident [redacted] related, was during the early part of World War II when members of the Winter Garden Klan received a letter from the Minister of the Church of God in Ocoee soliciting the assistance of the Klan in curbing the immoral activities and relationships between local girls and soldiers. [redacted] related that a group of Klan members called a meeting at the Church of God, had a goodly number of citizens and residents of that

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community in attendance, at which time members of the Winter Garden Klan made talks in an effort to remedy the existing situation. [redacted] advised that to his knowledge the Klan took no further part in this situation.

He emphasized that he could not have participated in any other jobs in the Klan [redacted]

[redacted] pointed out that "any jobs" handled by the Klan are not usually discussed at a Klan meeting or known to the Klan membership; that things of this nature are handled by a committee of four or five men within the Klan and that quite often only one or two members of such committee know of "jobs" handled.

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[redacted] EARL BROOKLYN and TILLMAN H. BELVIN. [redacted] emphatically denied ever having seen any house floor plan in the possession of either EARL BROOKLYN or BELVIN, stating [redacted] EARL does not have education enough to draw or prepare a set of floor plans. [redacted] advised he had never seen or heard of floor plans of any kind in the possession of Klan members in Winter Garden or Apopka.

[redacted] advised that most of the Klan members in Winter Garden and Apopka knew of HARRY T. MOORE but that he had never heard any Klan members discussing taking any action against MOORE or making any threats against MOORE. He denied knowledge of the bombing of the MOORE residence and expressed his opinion that the KKK was not responsible for the perpetration of instant bombing.

During the interview [redacted] admitted no arrests, and no arrests for him were located at the Orlando Police Department or the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained from observation and interrogation:

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Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	[redacted]
Born	[redacted]
Place of birth	Florida
Height	[redacted]

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Weight  
Build  
Eyes  
Hair  
Complexion  
Marital status  
Wife  
Children  
Residence

[Redacted]

Married

[Redacted]

Orlando

Employment

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Orlando, Florida

Scars and marks

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] voluntarily submitted to having his photograph made, copies of which are maintained in this file.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 16, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] of Orlando, Florida, was interviewed in order to obtain information concerning the whereabouts of suspects EARL BROOKLYN's [redacted]

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[redacted] Orlando, advised that [redacted] was two or three grades behind her in school and that she did not associate with [redacted] because of their difference in age. She advised that during the recent Christmas holidays of 1951 she had seen [redacted] working at [redacted] in Orlando. She knew that prior to that employment [redacted] had worked for [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that [redacted] who is employed by Etna Finance in Orlando was in the same class as [redacted] [redacted] would not recognize EARL BROOKLYN if she saw him inasmuch as it has been many years since she has been at the BROOKLYN home. It seemed to her that the BROOKLYN girls were closer to their mother inasmuch as she has never seen EARL BROOKLYN with either of the daughters

[redacted]

[redacted] Employment Clerk at [redacted] Orlando, advised that according to the employment record [redacted] was employed by the store as a Department head from August 31, 1951 until September 21, 1951 at which time she left town with [redacted] a former employee of the store and [redacted] husband who follows the stock car races. [redacted] stayed with [redacted] before leaving for Michigan.

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[redacted] exhibited a postcard postmarked January 2, 1952, Dearborn, Michigan from [redacted] in which she gave a return address of [redacted] Dearborn, Michigan.

According to the employment record [redacted] listed her latest address as [redacted] Orlando; her previous address [redacted] Baltimore, Maryland where she was employed by [redacted] was born [redacted] and

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originally came from Ocoee, Florida.

By teletype Detroit was requested to locate and interview [redacted]  
[redacted] Dearborn, Michigan.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PAUL G. CLINKSCALES, CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and [redacted] January 17 and 18, 1952:

BASIS: Information furnished by [redacted] Detroit, Michigan, [redacted] of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, for the purpose of developing additional background information re this suspect.

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[redacted] Orlando Florida, advised that EARL BROOKLYN has been married [redacted] ANNIE, nee Caldwell, for approximately 20 years. that the BROOKLYNS have two daughters [redacted] advised that [redacted] is of the same temperament and disposition as is suspect EARL BROOKLYN; that for several years they have had their personal differences; and that [redacted] has stayed at the home of her parents only during brief intervals since February, 1951.

The [redacted] advised they have not been closely associated with the BROOKLYNS for several years although they reside only a mile from the BROOKLYN residence. They furnished similar background information regarding his residence in Orlando and vicinity and his employment as previously developed.

When questioned specifically, they advised that they had no knowledge of suspect BROOKLYN's connection, association or activities in the KKK, they knew of no trouble in which BROOKLYN had been involved and could furnish no information regarding BROOKLYN having been arrested or serving time.

They denied having seen or heard anything to indicate that EARL BROOKLYN was active in the KKK. They furnished the names of [redacted] and [redacted] residents of Orlovista and Winter Garden, respectively, as associates of BROOKLYN, stating that these three and others hunted quite a bit together.

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Mrs. LEILA R. WREN, 2045 Long Street, Orlando, eldest sister of Mrs. ANNIE BROOKLYN, wife of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, upon interview advised that BROOKLYN was born and reared in the vicinity of Ocoee, Florida, has been married to his present wife for approximately 20 years and has lived at his present residence approximately eight or ten years. She

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advised that BROOKLYN had a serious operation on his stomach about two years ago and that BROOKLYN's wife, ANNIE, has in the past two or three years suffered from a serious nervous condition. ANNIE's condition was such that she has been continuously under a doctor's care that she was hospitalized for sometime and that relatives thought at one time that ANNIE was losing her mind.

Mrs. WREN stated that she has not seen her sister in several weeks, the last being at a local sanatorium where she visited her mother, who is blind, at the same time as did ANNIE BROOKLYN.

Mrs. WREN denied knowledge of BROOKLYN's outside activities, particularly in the activities or connections with the KKK. She added that because of lack of contact with her sister and as she did not feel she was welcome in the BROOKLYN home, she has not visited the BROOKLYN residence in over a year.

She stated it was because of personal differences that BROOKLYN's [redacted] left the BROOKLYN residence to live and work in Orlando in February, 1951 and went to Detroit, Michigan to stay with an aunt just prior to Christmas, 1951. Mrs. WREN knew nothing of BROOKLYN's associates or companions and could furnish no information as to whether or not BROOKLYN stayed home with his wife at nights or when not at work.

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[redacted] Ocoee, Florida, residence Old Winter Garden Road, furnished similar background information regarding BROOKLYN, his family and employment. She stated BROOKLYN is a "peculiar" sort of man, explaining that sometimes when meeting BROOKLYN he was friendly and at other times he would not even speak to [redacted] or her husband.

[redacted] advised she has not visited in the BROOKLYN home during the past six months and last saw BROOKLYN's wife, ANNIE, when ANNIE visited her mother, then staying in the [redacted] about five months ago. [redacted] denied knowledge of BROOKLYN's activities in or association with the KKK and stated she knew nothing of his outside activities. She stated she has not seen or heard anything to indicate that BROOKLYN was affiliated with the KKK and has never heard her husband mention anything in this regard.

During interviews with the above sisters of ANNIE BROOKLYN, wife of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, all of them stated they had not visited or seen BROOKLYN or any of his family during the Christmas holidays, did not know where BROOKLYN and his family had spent Christmas day and they could furnish no information regarding BROOKLYN's activities during the Christmas holidays.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD, PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and Assistant Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE on January 18, 1952: at Orlando, Florida:

BASIS: EARL BROOKLYN was tentatively identified by T-2 at Orlando as answering the description of one of two white men inquiring at Mims, Florida during the latter part of July or early August, 1951 as to the whereabouts of the residence of HARRY T. MOORE. The two men making such inquiry were described by a negro resident of Mims, [redacted] T-2 when making the tentative identification furnished information that he had seen what was said to be a floor plan of HARRY T. MOORE's home in the possession of BROOKLYN during [redacted] at which time BROOKLYN was [redacted]

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Above named Agents at the residence of EARL J. BROOKLYN, Box 329E, Route 3, Orlando, Florida, contacted BROOKLYN at which time the latter executed a waiver of search. Weapons belonging to BROOKLYN were observed to be a double barrel .12 gauge shotgun, a .22 repeater rifle. No green plaid shirt was located though a red baseball cap was noted. This in view of the fact that original information from [redacted] indicated that one of the two white men making inquiry was wearing such a shirt and possibly a red hunting cap. There was no evidence of the presence of dynamite or any other explosive in the home.

Suspect BROOKLYN in company with his wife, ANNIE BROOKLYN, were instructed to appear at the Resident Agency office in the Post Office Building. They followed Agents to the office and upon arrival were separated for simultaneous interviews. BROOKLYN was interviewed by Special Agent CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and Assistant Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE.

BROOKLYN advised he was born in Brooksville, Florida April 1, 1911, that he has lived in Orlando, Florida for 20 years and for the last 14 years at his present residence. He stated he had never been in any trouble and had never been arrested and that he is presently employed as a concrete truck driver with the Super Concrete Company of Orlando.

At the beginning of the interview BROOKLYN vehemently denied he is a member or that he has ever been a member of the KKK or any club, not even the church. However, upon further insistence by Agents based upon information developed from various sources that BROOKLYN has been active in

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the Klan, BROOKLYN finally admitted that he had been a member but since his health had failed him a year or two ago he had ceased to be active in the organization.

BROOKLYN likewise denied that he had ever seen plans of HARRY T. MOORE's home. He stated he had never had the plans of anyone's home in his possession, in fact, he stated he had never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until he heard of the bombing incident on the radio.

BROOKLYN further stated he had at no time as much as discussed the incident with anyone nor did he possess any information that would assist in identifying the individual responsible for the incident. According to BROOKLYN he has been in Mims, Florida possibly one time in the last 20 years, that being when he was returning to Sanford, Florida from Titusville several years ago after a turtle hunt in the latter city.

BROOKLYN was very positive in stating that he had never had any trouble within his family. In furtherance he said that he and his wife, ANNIE, have always gotten along as well as any couple in Orlando. He stated, however, that at times he had objected to the activities of his daughter, [redacted] in not approving of her staying out late at night, etc. and as a result she had left home about a year ago and remained in Baltimore, Maryland for possibly six months. He said [redacted] left home again on December 22, 1951 but before leaving called him to say Good-bye. BROOKLYN advised his wife has heard from [redacted] since she arrived in Detroit but states he has not heard from her directly.

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During interview BROOKLYN asked Agent could he ask a question. He asked had the Agents talked to [redacted] who lives in his, BROOKLYN's, neighborhood. He immediately related a story of his inability to get along with [redacted] and stated he felt [redacted] would tell anything about him whether or not it was true. [redacted] Agents advised BROOKLYN that [redacted] was contacted in a routine neighborhood investigation making inquiries with regard to BROOKLYN but that [redacted] had furnished no information of value nor had [redacted] made any disparaging remarks with regard to BROOKLYN other than the fact he had never gotten along too well with him as a neighbor.

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According to BROOKLYN, he, in company with his wife, ANNIE, his daughter [redacted] and his daughter's girl friend, [redacted] left the BROOKLYN residence on Christmas morning at about 9 or 10 o'clock proceeding to the home of TOMMIE RICE for the purpose of having Christmas dinner with the RICE FAMILY. They had dined at about 1:30 or 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

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Also present for dinner at the [redacted] home were [redacted]

BROOKLYN stated that a [redacted] came to the [redacted] home just prior to dinner to get [redacted] to come to the Florida Sanitarium to be with [redacted] wife who had delivered a baby that morning. [redacted] after dinner drove in her car to the hospital, according to BROOKLYN's statements.

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Sometime after [redacted] having departed BROOKLYN said he, BROOKLYN, with his daughter and her girl friend, drove [redacted] home and after having dropped [redacted] at his home they returned to the [redacted] home where they remained until shortly after 9 P.M. BROOKLYN said that the rest of his family had supper with the [redacted] family though he did not eat as the rich food they had had for dinner has caused him to become ill.

After departing the [redacted] home the BROOKLYNS went directly home and retired for the night shortly after arriving, in the neighborhood of 9:30 or 10 o'clock. He denies he left home after having retired.

BROOKLYN denied he had ever been on any "rides" with the Klan. He said he has worked with negroes all his life but had never had any trouble with them. He was greatly surprised to learn that many people who have known him a long time during interviews with Agents had stated he, BROOKLYN, had a reputation of being strongly prejudiced against the negroes.

BROOKLYN stated that he knows Mr. BELVIN but due to the fact Mr. BELVIN lives so far from him he had not at any time been too close with Mr. BELVIN. He expressed his opinion as being high with regard to BELVIN.

BROOKLYN stated he had run into TOMMIE RICE on the afternoon preceding instant interview at about 3 o'clock at which time RICE told BROOKLYN that FBI Agents had questioned him. BROOKLYN denied, however, that the meeting with RICE had been prearranged.

It is noted at this point that during interview with TOMMIE RICE earlier in the day RICE advised Agents he had to make a 3 o'clock appointment,

Based upon information in possession of Agents from reliable sources relative to BROOKLYN's Klan activities, it is quite obvious that suspect was untruthful in his statements.

EARL J. BROOKLYN is described as:

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Age	41
Born	4-1-11
Place of birth	Brooksville, Florida
Weight	190
Height	5'8"
Build	Stocky
Eyes	Gray
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Light brown, receding forehead.

Photographs and fingerprints were obtained from suspect BROOKLYN.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 18, 1952:

BASIS: Interview with wife of suspect EARL BROOKLYN.

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Mrs. ANNIE LUCILLE BROOKLYN, nee Caldwell, wife of suspect EARL BROOKLYN, residence Route 3, Box 339E, was interviewed separately at the Orlando Resident Agency at the same time as was her husband. She advised she married EARL BROOKLYN in 1930 and that they have two daughters.

[redacted] She advised they have lived at their present residence for approximately 12 years and that prior to that time they lived on Church Street in Orlando.

She advised her husband has worked as a truck driver for the Super Concrete Company, Hames Street plant, for the past two years and for about six to eight years for this company, which formerly operated under another name. She advised her husband has two brothers [redacted] [redacted] who is a grove caretaker at Sanford, Florida and [redacted] also employed at the Super Concrete Company in Orlando.

When questioned as to the recent activities of her husband and herself, Mrs. BROOKLYN advised that on Christmas day, 1951 they went to the home of TOMMIE RICE about 9 A.M. Besides herself, her husband and daughter [redacted] also visiting at the RICE home were Mr. and Mrs. WALTER BALLARD of Ocoee.

Just prior to eating Christmas dinner, about 2 P.M., [redacted] stopped at the RICE home and had Mrs. BALLARD accompany him on a visit to the hospital where [redacted] wife was hospitalized. Mrs. BROOKLYN advised that the others stayed around the RICE residence all Christmas day, and that she and her husband left the RICE residence about 9 P.M. She stated that EARL BROOKLYN, who had a serious stomach operation about 2½ years ago, became ill Christmas evening, which necessitated their leaving the RICE home and that she, her husband and daughter went to their home and EARL retired. She claimed that EARL did not leave the BROOKLYN residence after returning home.

Mrs. BROOKLYN advised that EARL did not work after Friday, December 21, 1951, returning to work on Wednesday December 26, 1951. She advised that on Saturday December 22, 1951 she and her husband had spent most of the day around their home and that night she and EARL, accompanied

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by [redacted] had gone fox hunting at approximately 8 to 9 P.M. She stated they had not returned until 3 A.M. Sunday, December 23, 1951. She stated that on Sunday morning EARL had hunted his dogs which he had left in the Lockhart scrub the night before and on Sunday afternoon she had accompanied her husband to pack the meat from a hog which EARL had butchered and left with a local butcher to cut and pack.

She stated that on Monday morning, December 24, 1951 she had accompanied her husband on a hunting trip, leaving home about 4 A.M. and returning that morning about 10 to 11 A.M. She stated that to the best of her knowledge EARL had spent the rest of Monday at their home and that she was working in the yard all the rest of Monday except for a short time that she visited her mother at a local hospital late in the afternoon.

When questioned as to hunting companions of her husband, she stated that [redacted] of Apopka, a [redacted] of Orlando and [redacted] who sells used cars on Orange Avenue in Orlando, accompany EARL quite frequently on hunting trips.

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Mrs. BROOKLYN was questioned regarding her husband's activities in the Ku Klux Klan. She emphatically denied that she has any information or knowledge that her husband is or has ever been in any way connected with the Ku Klux Klan. She denied having heard her husband mention any associations or connection with the KKK or KKK members and stated that she has never seen anything resembling a robe, membership card or other KKK insigne in her husband's possession.

She advised that after her husband's operation 2½ years ago EARL has stayed at home with her during most of the evenings and nights after work, except for the time when EARL went fox hunting. She advised that she accompanies EARL on a large percentage of these fox hunting trips and that in view of her nervousness and general physical condition she most always knows where EARL is going fox hunting and with whom he is going fox hunting so that she might be able to locate EARL in the event of an emergency.

She advised that EARL has always confided in her, that she has never heard heard him discuss the Klan and that she does not believe it possible he could have been active in the KKK during the past two years without her knowing it. Mrs. BROOKLYN stated that to her knowledge her husband does not belong to any organization or group, adding that she and her husband are not even members of any church.

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When questioned as to the relationship of her husband EARL and her daughter, [REDACTED] Mrs. BROOKLYN advised that "they are so much alike" that they could not get along. She explained by stating that their temperament and disposition was such that they have had personal differences for the past several years. She advised her daughter left the home to live and work in Orlando about one year ago, has returned home for brief intervals since that time, and on December 21, 1951 went to Detroit, Michigan where she is now staying with Mrs. BROOKLYN's sister.

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When it was pointed out to Mrs. BROOKLYN that information from various reliable sources, including information furnished by [REDACTED] when interviewed in Detroit, indicated that EARL BROOKLYN had been closely associated with and active in the KKK in this area for many years, she still emphatically denied any knowledge of her husband's activities or connections with the KKK.

When questioned as to her association and friendship with the TILLMAN H. BELVIN family, Mrs. BROOKLYN advised that she has known TILLMAN and his wife for several years; that she knew TILLMAN first when he operated a garage in Orlando. She stated that TILLMAN and wife moved to a ranch east of Orlando about a year ago and that she and her husband have not visited the BELVINS and have had little contact with them since that time.

She cited as her last contact a trip on which she and her husband had accompanied BELVIN and wife to Bay Pines, Florida, during the late summer or early fall of 1951. She pointed out that BELVIN's health has been bad for several years; that because of his health BELVIN had moved to the ranch outside of Orlando and that BELVIN has been receiving treatment at the Veterans Hospital, Bay Pines, Florida during recent months, staying at the Veterans Hospital for two or three months during the latter part of 1950. She stated that BELVIN in the past accompanied her husband on hunting trips rather infrequently and to her knowledge BELVIN has not been hunting with her husband during the past two or three months.

In regard to the bombing of the MOORE residence, she stated she had never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until she read about it in the newspaper. She stated her husband had never mentioned MOORE or the bombing to her.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 18, 1952:

BASIS: TOMMY RICE was mentioned by [redacted] suspect EARL BROOKLYN, as a close associate and acquaintance of BROOKLYN.

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JAMES THOMAS RICE, Route 3, Box 404E, Orlando, Florida, advised he has lived in and around Orlando since 1937, having come to Florida from Hamlon County, Tennessee. RICE advised he now works taking care of his small ranch and small citrus grove adjoining his residence. He advised he had been in the "Cuba" business (numbers racket) with a partner, whom he declined to name, for several years prior to December 27, 1951 when he quit because of the 10% tax required by the government and the federal law requiring the purchase of a federal gambling stamp.

He advised his only relative in Florida is a brother, W. E. "BILL" RICE, who lives in the ranch house adjoining his residence, Route 3, Box 404, Orlando. RICE advised he has never been arrested in Orange County, Florida; that he has only been arrested twice in his life, that being around 1925-26 at Tampa, Florida. He stated that several young men had come from Tennessee to Tampa to work and that it was during a mass arrest of "floaters" at a rooming house in Tampa that he was arrested and questioned and released without any charges being placed against him or any fine levied.

RICE advised he has known EARL BROOKLYN for about 1½ years; first meeting BROOKLYN while fox hunting in the area west of Ocoee, Florida. He advised since that time BROOKLYN and wife have accompanied RICE and wife on numerous fox hunting trips, mentioned as other fox hunting associates of both BROOKLYN and RICE were [redacted] who operates a used car business near the Fort Gatlin Hotel, Orlando, [redacted] employed in the collection Department of the First National Bank at Orlando, and occasionally [redacted] (phonetic) cattle and citrus men from Apopka; [redacted] from Clarcona and [redacted] a grove caretaker who lives just outside Apopka.

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RICE advised that he last went fox hunting on Saturday night, January 12, 1952 accompanied by his wife, EARL BROOKLYN and wife, and WALTER BALLARD and wife. They went hunting in the Lockhart scrub located two miles west of the overpass leading into Apopka. This hunt started about 8 to 8:30 P.M. and terminated between 3 and 4 A.M. Sunday, January 13, 1952.

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RICE advised that to his knowledge EARL BROOKLYN owns a double barrel shotgun and possibly a .22 calibre rifle. To his knowledge BROOKLYN does not own any revolvers, pistols or other firearms. RICE stated he owns a .20 gauge automatic shotgun and a five-shot .38 calibre revolver, makes and models not recalled.

Regarding the recent activities of EARL BROOKLYN, RICE advised that BROOKLYN, his wife and daughter, along with WALTER BALLARD and his wife, spent Christmas day at the RICE home. According to RICE the BROOKLYNS arrived at his home at approximately 1 P.M. Christmas day, ate Christmas dinner about 6:30 to 7 P.M. after which EARL BROOKLYN got sick and departed. He advised that BROOKLYN had a serious stomach operation about two years ago and has been in ill health since that time. RICE was unable to furnish further information regarding BROOKLYN's activities during the Christmas holidays. He added, however, that he and his wife had been accompanied by BROOKLYN and his wife on numerous fox hunting trips during the past year.

RICE advised that WALTER BALLARD, 71 years of age, has been employed for many years as a road grader by Orange County. He stated BALLARD lives between Ocoee and Winter Garden, Florida.

Upon questioning RICE emphatically denied that he is now or ever has been a member of the KKK or associated with KKK activities in this area. He maintained that he knew nothing about KKK activities in Orlando or Winter Garden, that he knew nothing of EARL BROOKLYN having been a member of or connected with the KKK, had never discussed the KKK or its activities with BROOKLYN and had never seen or heard anything to indicate to him that BROOKLYN was engaged in KKK activity.

When it was pointed out to RICE that information developed through investigation indicated that he had been connected with the KKK he still denied such connections or membership with this organization. He advised that he has not used dynamite in his work on his cattle ranch and citrus groves and stated that he did not know of BROOKLYN having used or having access to any dynamite. RICE claims that he has in the past had no trouble with negroes in this area although he was in contact with various negroes and, in fact, has employed negroes as writers in his Cuba business.

When questioned as to any acquaintances he or BROOKLYN might have in the vicinity of Cocoa, Titusville and Mims, Florida, RICE stated he knows no one in that area. He denied having made any trips recently to that area and claimed to have no knowledge of BROOKLYN having made any trips or having any associates or acquaintances in the vicinity of Mims.

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RICE voluntarily agreed to be photographed and his fingerprints taken. Prints and photographs were obtained for possible future use.

The following description of RICE was obtained from interrogation and observation at the time he was interviewed:

Name	JAMES THOMAS RICE
Sex	Male
Race	White
Born	8-10-00
Place	Hamblon County, Tennessee
Height	5'8"
Weight	176
Hair	Dark brown, thin, graying around the sides
Eyes	Hazel
Build	Stocky
Occupation	Rancher and citrus grower
Education	8th grade
Marital status	Married
Wife	LAURA MAE RICE (14 years, no children)
Scars and marks	End of right thumb deformed because of removal of bone felon
Residence	Route 3, Box 404E, Old Winter Garden Road, Orlando, Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINE-SCALES and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on January 21, 1952:

BASIS: Information furnished by EARL BROOKLYN and T. J. RICE that WALTER P. BALLARD and wife had been at his house on Christmas day.

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WALTER P. BALLARD, Route 4, Winter Garden, Florida, advised he and his wife had been at the home of T. J. RICE for dinner on Christmas day. He said they arrived there at approximately 11 A.M. and had left approximately 4:30 P.M. BALLARD stated that they had Christmas dinner at about 1 or 1:30 P.M. and that EARL BROOKLYN and his wife had been at the RICES for dinner. BALLARD advised that when he left the RICE home at 4:30 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. EARL BROOKLYN were still there.

BALLARD stated he was not too well acquainted with BROOKLYN but had on a few occasions gone fox hunting with him. He knew nothing of BROOKLYN's Klan activities and BALLARD denied that he was a member of the Klan.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and FRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 21, 1952:

BASIS: Information furnished by suspect EARL BROOKLYN that he got off duty as a truck driver, Super Concrete Company, early on the afternoon of January 18, 1952, the afternoon BROOKLYN and his wife were interviewed by Agents as he had finished for the day by that time.

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[redacted] Super Concrete Company, Hames Street Plant, where EARL BROOKLYN is employed as a concrete truck driver, advised that regular working hours for employees here are 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. PARKER further stated that it is not uncommon, however, for drivers to finish hauling out loads of concrete prior to 5 P.M. and check off duty when finished.

His records reflected that EARL BROOKLYN checked off duty at 4 P.M. on January 18, 1952 and records for previous days reflected BROOKLYN's quitting time as follows:

January 17, 1952	5:30 P.M.
" 16 "	5:30 "
" 15 "	6:00 "
" 14 "	5:45 "
" 11 "	5:00 "

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However, it was noted on the time sheet for January 18, 1952 that one driver checked off duty at 3:30 P.M., one driver other than BROOKLYN checked off at 4 P.M. and two drivers checked off at 4:30 P.M.

[redacted] advised that to his knowledge there had been no telephone calls to his office, the loading place for concrete trucks, on the Friday afternoon of January 18, 1952 and as best he recalled, BROOKLYN had made no request on that date that he be allowed to quit work earlier than 5 P.M.



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V. INVESTIGATION RE SUSPECT TILLMAN H. BELVIN

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINKSCALES, [redacted] and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on January 3 to 17, 1952:

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BASIS: To obtain background information on TILLMAN H. BELVIN, informants have stated BELVIN is possibly identical with one of the persons that was in Mims, Florida in about August, 1951 inquiring about the whereabouts of HARRY T. MOORE.

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No criminal record was located for BELVIN at the Orange County Sheriff's Office or at the Orlando Police Department.

Records of the Credit Bureau of Orlando reflect that BELVIN was arrested for being drunk on December 11, 1929 and was tried in Municipal Court, Orlando. No disposition was shown.

The records also reflected that subject passed a number of non-sufficient fund checks during 1928-29.

The records show further that on November 8, 1951 BELVIN filed honorable discharge papers at the office of the Orange County Clerk of the Court.

A check of the Florida State Drivers License Bureau in the Orange County Courthouse, Orlando, Florida, reflected the following description of BELVIN:

Age	61
Born	10-29-90
Race	White
Sex	Male
Hair	Gray
Height	5' 11½"
Weight	210
Eyes	Gray
Occupation	Mechanic
Residence address	Route 4, Box 371-D, Orlando, Florida.

Records of the Florida State Automobile License Tag Bureau reflect that T. H. BELVIN is the owner of a 1951 Hudson automobile, engine #7A-120873 and that this car was carrying 1951 Florida license #7W-8985.

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Records of honorable discharges maintained by the Clerk of the Court, Orange County Courthouse, reflects that the discharge for TILMAN H. BELVIN is filed in Book 39, page 695. This discharge reflects that BELVIN entered the U. S. Army on May 15, 1918 at Darlington, South Carolina and was honorably discharged on April 18, 1919. The reason for discharge was demobilization. This discharge record reflects further that BELVIN had overseas duty in France from October 28, 1918 to March 23, 1919. He was reported as having an excellent character at the time of discharge. BELVIN had the rank of Private with Serial #2993479 and was a member of Battery D, 307th Field Artillery.

[redacted] advised that BELVIN owned approximately 40 acres of land in that vicinity and that BELVIN had been living there for approximately one and a half years. They stated they first became acquainted with BELVIN when he shot one of their cows a day or two after he had moved on Lake Pickett Road. BELVIN had told [redacted] that he shot the cow in self-defense. Mr. RYBOLD stated he knew nothing concerning BELVIN's Klan activities and that there had been no dynamite used in the Lake Pickett section to his knowledge in the last three years.

[redacted] for the Circle C Ranch, stated he was not well acquainted with BELVIN as he had only talked to him about twice in the last year and a half. He said he knew nothing concerning BELVIN's activities and that to his knowledge dynamite had not been used at the ranch for a long time.

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[redacted] at the Circle C Ranch, stated he was not acquainted with BELVIN. He advised that approximately two years ago dynamite had been used to blast a ditch on the range. He said that a [redacted] had done this blasting for the ranch and that some of the dynamite was still stored in a barn. This dynamite was examined by Special Agents CLINKSCALES and ADERHOLD and it was noted that it was duPont 60% dynamite and that the Circle C Range has twenty-five sticks of it stored in a barn.

[redacted] said that this dynamite had been there for at least a year and a half and that no one had stolen any to his knowledge.

W. C. TANNER, Lake Pickett Road, advised that he has known BELVIN for about the last fifteen years. He said that prior to moving to the Lake Pickett section, BELVIN had operated an automobile garage in Orlando. TANNER said that BELVIN had been seriously ill for the last three years and that he had spent two months in the hospital during August and September,

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1951. TANNER said that he did not know the reason for BELVIN's illness.

TANNER advised he thought BELVIN had been active in Klen activities until about three years ago when it had been necessary for BELVIN to drop out because of his health.

TANNER said that to his knowledge no one in the Lake Pickett Section had been using any dynamite.

Confidential Informant T-1 of known reliability advised that during the month of November, 1951 BELVIN contacted the Kissimmee Auction Market at Kissimmee, Florida. This informant said this was on November 14, 1951. BELVIN also was contacted by an individual named [redacted] from Christmas, Florida, a leader from Titusville, Florida on November 21, 1951. Informant thought that [redacted] was connected with the Railway Express Company.

Informant stated further that BELVIN contacted [redacted] at Sanford, Florida, telephone #821-M on November 28, 1951. BELVIN also contacted an unknown person at Oviedo, Florida, telephone #2001 on the same date. This informant also advised that on December 15, 1951 BELVIN again contacted [redacted] at Sanford, Florida.

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On December 19, 1951 BELVIN contacted a [redacted] of the Clean Balm Company, Falls Church, Virginia.

On December 19, 1951 BELVIN also contacted a [redacted] at Zellwood, Florida.

On December 20, 1951 [redacted] contacted T. H. BELVIN from Macon, Georgia.

On December 23, 1951 [redacted] contacted T. H. BELVIN from Charleston, South Carolina.

The informant stated that on December 27, 1951 BELVIN contacted [redacted] Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and [REDACTED] on January 22, 1952:

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BASIS: WILLIAM CLEVELAND TANNER, Route 4, Orlando, neighbor of suspect BELVIN, interviewed for any information he would furnish regarding activities of BELVIN and KKK, Orlando area.

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WILLIAM CLEVELAND TANNER, Route 4, Orlando, advised he was born December 15, 1884 in Orange County, Florida, a short distance from the present city of Orlando, Florida and has resided in the Orlando area all of his life. He said he joined the Ku Klux Klan at Orlando, Florida approximately 30 years ago but "dropped out about 10 years ago and haven't carried a card since." He said for the past 10 years he has not had any connection whatsoever with the Klan and denied he knows anything regarding the activities of the Klan in the Orlando area.

He said he never heard of HARRY T. and HARRIETT MOORE until he read about the bombing in the newspapers. He advised that he read of the bombing in the papers and has not discussed the bombing with anyone. He also stated he does not know anything regarding various incidents of violence which have occurred in Orange County in the past year.

Mr. TANNER stated that during the entire time he was active in the Ku Klux Klan in Orlando he never participated in a "ride" when there was anyone whipped or mistreated by members of the Klan. He said he is still heartily in accord with the principles of the Klan although he abhors violence and the "taking of the law into ones own hands." In this regard he stated he recalls that during the time he was a member of the Klan some white men were whipped by Klansmen because these white men were not properly supporting their respective families. He said he was unable to recall the identities of the men or the Klansmen who did the whipping.

In regard to the last statement Mr. TANNER stated it is a Klansman's oath never to divulge the names of other Klansmen and it is his intention to abide by the oath.

In regard to TILMAN H. BELVIN, Mr. TANNER stated he has known of BELVIN for the past 15 years and has been personally acquainted with him for the past year and a half, during which time BELVIN has resided on Route 4 and has been a neighbor of TANNERS.

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He stated he recently contacted BELVIN by telephone and advised BELVIN that he, TANNER, had been approached by a "couple of callers" who exhibited their identification and which callers mentioned BELVIN's name. TANNER stated that he gave BELVIN to understand that the FBI had already approached him and had mentioned BELVIN's name during the conversation.

He denied he has ever spoken to BELVIN regarding Ku Klux Klan activities or the bombing of the MOORE residence. In this regard he stated that he has seen BELVIN only once since Christmas and at that time he saw BELVIN, who was on horseback and accompanied by [redacted] a neighbor of BELVIN's who resides on Route 4. TANNER said BELVIN and [redacted] were at that time leaving to go bird hunting.

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Mr. TANNER admitted he has been aware of the fact BELVIN is a member of the Klan and upon admitting such fact he stated he realized he had violated his Klansman oath in admitting BELVIN is a Klansman. He said he had unintentionally made such admission regarding BELVIN.

During the interview Mr. TANNER stated it is his understanding BELVIN has sold his properties on Route 4 and intends to move from that area. He expressed the opinion that BELVIN has not been active in Klan activities for the past year and a half because of ill health and in this regard he personally knows BELVIN has made a number of trips to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital for medical treatment.

He further stated he knows of one instance in which BELVIN had "a spell" and was carried to the hospital immediately thereafter. Mr. TANNER expressed the desire to be of full cooperation and assistance but pointed out that he was also obligated by his oath to the Klan not to divulge information regarding other Klansmen.

The following physical description was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Name	WILLIAM CLEVELAND TANNER
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	67
Born	12-15-84
Place of birth	Orange County, Florida
Height	5'8"
Weight	160
Hair	Dark brown mixed with gray, receding hairline

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Eyes	Gray
Teeth	False upper and lower plates
Build	Slim
Complexion	Medium
Marital status	Married
Wife	LENORA TANNER, Route 4, Orlando
Sons	[REDACTED] Orlando, Florida. [REDACTED] Orlando, Florida.
Daughter	[REDACTED] Fairvilla, Florida Route 6, Orlando, Florida.
Occupation	Farmer, cattleman, former Game Warden
Education	6th grade
Military service	None
Arrests	Denied any
Former employment	Orange County Live Stock Sanitary Board, tick eradication program; FEC Railroad, 5 years during early youth
Organizations	Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando; KKK, Orlando.

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Fingerprints and photographs were obtained of TANNER.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH, [REDACTED] and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 20, 1952:

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BasIs: TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, also known as Curley Belvin, was interviewed inasmuch as he is a principal suspect in this case.

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TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN also known as CURLY BELVIN, was contacted at his home, Route 4, Box 400 Lake Drawdy (which is 16 miles outside of Orlando) where he executed a waiver of search. The following articles were noted as a result of this search of BELVIN's home:

- A Stevens .12 gauge shotgun, model 620, bearing no visible serial number
- 2 .30 calibre, center fire Winchester rifles, model 94
- A .22 calibre Mossberg rifle
- A .38 calibre Police Positive pistol, having serial #113905 with St. Petersburg Police Department #141 on the frame
- A Smith and Wesson .44 calibre pistol, serial #62207, having frame #24470
- A pair of high top black leather hunting boots
- A light red hunting cap which was in the form of a baseball cap, size 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Thereafter TILLMAN BELVIN was interviewed at the Orlando Resident Agency by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH, [REDACTED] JAMES P. SHANNON and Assistant Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE and furnished the following information:

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At the beginning of the interview BELVIN claimed he did not know of any reason why he was being interviewed by the FBI, had not even heard that the FBI was conducting an investigation in the Orlando area but stated he was willing to cooperate to the extent that he would not have to break his oath to the Klan too badly — that as long as the questions did not interfere with his fellow man he would be willing to answer any questions presented to him. He did not think that the Klan has been guilty of a lot of things it has been accused of throughout the years.

He mentioned that there were two oaths he had taken, one to the

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MM 44-270

Klan and one to the United States, that his oath to the United States was superior to the Oath of the Klan and if a man did wrong that he would "spill on him." He remarked he had never belonged to the Southern Knights of the Klan because it was not "uplifting to the country," that the members of that outfit did not abide by their oaths never to divulge the names of the members and that they (The Southern Knights of the Klan) got out and told people they would "spill on the Georgia Klan".

Many of these members of the Southern Knights of the Klan have been kicked out of the Georgia Klan because of such activities. BELVIN was not specific as to the actual activities which caused these individuals to be ousted from the Georgia Klan.

BELVIN exhibited a 1951 membership card of the Association of Georgia Klans (AGK) bearing #20301 which was to be void after March 31, 1951 bearing a pencilled notation in the lower right corner (GRC) (indistinct) and the numeral 1 circled.

BELVIN made the statement "I have heard that they have gone wrong" but did not, or would not explain it. He had been a member of the Klan for 25 years having joined in Orlando, Florida. He explained the Klan grew tremendously at the time of the AL SMITH-HOOVER election in which the Klan was very instrumental in electing HOOVER. After that election the Klan was relatively inactive between the period 1928-42. For five years during that period one FRED BASS (deceased) was the Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando branch of the Klan.

To illustrate the desire of the Klan to rid itself of certain outlaw or terrorist individuals and groups, he explained that over nine years ago a group headed by [redacted] who can be located at [redacted] in Winter Garden, Florida, was banished because that group were engaged in terrorist activities against negroes and that it was because of them that the Klan at that time was being charged with terrorist activities.

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After that flare up in 1941 or 1942 the Klan virtually folded until 1947 or 1948 only having a handful of members during that period. It was through the efforts of [redacted] a carpenter of Ocoee, Florida and [redacted] (who is presently alleged to be in Johns-Hopkins Hospital with cancer) that the Klan in the Orlando area was revived.

BELVIN claims he does not know why the Klan was revived, that he did not know the intentions of the Klan at that time inasmuch as no one ever



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told him. After the revival of the Orlando branch of the Klan [redacted] was elected Secretary of the branch; [redacted] was elected Exalted Cyclops and [redacted] was elected a KLo Klan committeeman.

It is BELVIN's belief that EARL BROOKLYN, who was a member of the Orlando lodge of the Georgia Klan during the entire period that he (BELVIN) belonged to that group, was a member of that small group in the Orlando branch which was headed by [redacted]. He described EARL BROOKLYN as a man of limited education whose intentions are "plumb good" but who gets off on the wrong foot if there is no one to guide him. BROOKLYN was rabid in his ideas and used to get up on the floor to suggest radical lines of action for the Klan and could easily persuade the rest of the members (most of whom also lacked any formal education) to join him in his proposals.

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The Exalted Cyclops, who would, of course, be the leader of any discussion at a meeting, would have to use a very strong hand in order to guide the discussion and stop such individuals as Brooklyn. It so happened that [redacted] who was a very persuasive speaker, possessed the same radical tendencies as BROOKLYN, and, in fact, fostered the proposals of BROOKLYN, resulting in a very dangerous situation for the Orlando branch of the Klan.

It should be noted that BELVIN would not divulge the exact nature of the proposals of BROOKLYN but rather spoke in generalities.

In explaining EARL BROOKLYN's philosophy on negroes he stated it was the same as his own, he did not think BROOKLYN hated the negro race but that if a good negro was hungry or needed some assistance it was the duty of the white man to feed him and help him until he could get back on his own feet and could help himself.

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EARL BROOKLYN ran the Orlando branch of the Klan and was unrestrained while [redacted] were the officers.

BELVIN stated he rejoined the Klan in 1948 through the inducement of [redacted] asked him to take over from [redacted] promising that if he were willing to run for Exalted Cyclops the membership would vote him in. After BELVIN agreed to this proposition he was elected Exalted Cyclops for the year 1949. He explained that there are 13 officers in a lodge or branch. Klan, that the Exalted Cyclops is virtually the ruler of the Klan, inasmuch as he controls the procedure and discussion at a meeting.

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BELVIN, who during the interview, continually pled loss of memory due to a spinal injury incurred while employed at the Orlando Air Base in approximately 1944, claimed he was unable to furnish specific information concerning the identity of the officials of the Klan. He claims that as soon as he became Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando lodge of the Georgia Klan dissention broke out because he would not stand for anyone going out, picking up someone and trimming them.

It was proper procedure that in the event any individual member of the Klan knew of a person or persons guilty of a violation of the law or improper behavior that member was obligated to present his complaint in writing to the Exalted Cyclops who was ex officio the head of the Klo Klan committee. The other three members of the Klo Klan committee were elected by popular vote of the membership aside from the routine election of officers of the lodge. It was the duty of the committee to investigate proposed members of the Klan as well as to investigate any complaints received from members of the Klan.

After receiving a complaint it was the duty of the committee to investigate the matter so that all the information possible could be obtained and turned over to the proper law enforcement officials for prosecution. He remarked that while he was the Exalted Cyclops he had to "hold EARL BROOKLYN down" in making suggestions from the floor. He has had to "set down" on EARL BROOKLYN at one time because he (BROOKLYN) wanted to thrash a white man two years ago - this white man having been accused of having intercourse with his own daughter. BELVIN claims the facts of this crime should have been turned over to the authorities, however he admits it was not done and the man was never prosecuted. He stated the accused man was never whipped or punished by the Klan itself but rather left the State for Georgia after he was told by members of the Klan to leave. BELVIN stated he was completely unable to recall the identity of the white man.

When questioned about his activities at the time of the Groveland riots and incidents, BELVIN advised he went over to Groveland himself after having been picked up by four other members of the Orlando lodge, two of whom were [redacted] 28 years of age and [redacted] the carpenter of Ocoee. (The identities of the other two he could not recall).

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He stated that inasmuch as he was Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando lodge at the time he went over to keep his members (the Orlando members of the Klan) out of any violence. He admitted he heard some shots being fired from the direction of Mascot, Florida. He claimed that the members

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of the Klan who were at the Groveland scene were mainly from the Apopka group of the Klan and again stated he was unable to recall the identities of these individuals inasmuch as his memory has failed him due to his ill health. He said he did not know whether or not EARL BROOKLYN went over to Groveland.

He explained that this activity on his part in refusing to allow any of the Orlando branch members in taking part in the Groveland riots, caused a definite split in the Orlando lodge of the Klan.

A short time after the Groveland incidents, four men, members of the Orlando lodge, approached him and asked him to resign. He learned that these four men

[redacted] the Ocoee carpenter and a man who operated a grocery store near Tillmanville (whose name he could not recall) had had a meeting the evening before at [redacted] BELVIN stated he did not resign immediately because actually he was not under obligation to resign since they had no basis for charges against him but did turn in his resignation about ten days or two weeks after the Groveland incident, mainly because his health was declining and he was physically unable to make the trip to the meeting place at the cement block building on Winter Garden Road (which is now owned by the Winter Garden group of the Klan). At one time the Orlando group met in the woods south of Winter Garden on Hiwassee Road.

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It should be noted that when BELVIN was Exalted Cyclops the membership of the Orlando lodge was about 550 to 600. Since resigning as Exalted Cyclops after serving only a period of about six months, BELVIN claims he stayed on for a while but paid little attention to the Klan and is actually inactive.

He claims he does not know who are the present officers of the Orlando lodge of the Klan but believes that [redacted] [redacted] near Perfection Dairy, Orlando) was the exalted Cyclops last year, elections being held each year.

BELVIN claimed that he has never been on any "rides" in recent years but that many years ago he was with a crew that did go on a "ride"; however, he refused to be specific as to the nature of the "ride".

He claims that while he was on the KLo Klan committee of the Orlando lodge while Exalted Cyclops for the period of six months, that committee conducted no illegal operations but handled routine work of the Klan.

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BELVIN insists that he never did wear the robe of his own volition and came near backing out of the Klan because of it. He dismissed the idea of wearing a hood stating "the hood has been off and outlawed for many years."

In further discussing the rights of negroes and the Groveland incidents, BELVIN believes negroes are human beings and should be allowed to vote but he would not let them eat at the table with him and actually believes few negroes really want to eat with the white people. He explained it is his idea that if a negro goes wrong (like in the Groveland case) he should receive a quick trial and quick justice so that people would forget it. He believed the law should prevail. However, he did state that if there was no quick trial a man has the right to overstep the law.

When pressed for his conclusion as to whether or not he believed the defendant in the Groveland case received "quick justice" BELVIN persistently evaded the question. He simply remarked that some other action would have to be taken if the law didn't operate quickly and that it was easy to throw someone into lawless actions.

BELVIN further stated that on occasions several years ago he used to visit the meetings of the Apopka lodge. He heard from R. G. STEPHENS (deceased), a former member of the Apopka branch, that about five or six members of that lodge had been ousted from the organization because they were "taking things into their own hands" and were keeping things to themselves (probably referring to the outside conference conducted by this dissident group). The group is alleged to have been engaged in erratic activities and also alleged to have gone to the Atlanta Headquarters reporting information which was not true concerning the Apopka group.

STEPHENS and one [redacted] who were described as decent fellows by BELVIN) were suspended from the Apopka lodge after their opponent, the Exalted Cyclops of the lodge had recordings made of a secret conference held by [redacted] and STEPHENS with their supporters. These recordings were made by an ex-sea captain (name forgotten by BELVIN) and presented as evidence against the STEPHENS [redacted] group at the headquarters in Atlanta. BELVIN claims no one has ever spoken of what was on these recordings. b6 b7c

[redacted] the head of the Klan, came down from Atlanta, inquired concerning the dissention in the Apopka group and reinstated WADE, STEPHENS and the others who had been ousted. After that the Apopka branch split up. The man who was the Exalted Cyclops of the Apopka branch became angry at the action of [redacted] in reinstating the ousted members and joined

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[redacted] Southern Knights of the Klan with others from the Apopka lodge. According to BELVIN this broke up the original Apopka branch of the Georgia Klan and the charter either died or was revoked. [redacted] and two others (names not recalled by BELVIN) obtained a charter for a separate Apopka branch of the Georgia Klan six months ago and [redacted] is probably the Exalted Cyclops of that lodge. STEPHENS was the recording secretary just prior to his death.

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BELVIN understands that EARL BROOKLYN did not transfer from the Orlando lodge to the Winter Garden lodge of the Georgia Klan until about four or five months ago. He understands that EARL BROOKLYN is a member of the Winter Garden lodge of the Georgia Klan but has never been in a position to know that it is official.

He explained that the circumstances whereby EARL BROOKLYN left the Orlando lodge of the Georgia Klan and transferred to the Winter Garden lodge has been closely kept remarking "you know he is awfully funny. If he doesn't get his own way he will go somewhere else". BELVIN claims he has never been able to get anybody to talk about EARL BROOKLYN's transfer to the Winter Garden lodge but believes that inasmuch as he was raised in Ocoee, Florida, EARL BROOKLYN was persuaded by some of the members over in that locality to transfer to Winter Garden.

He claims EARL has been a hard worker at his employment at the Super Concrete Company and hasn't been able to do very much work in the Klan because he was operated on for a stomach ailment in the Florida Sanitarium in recent years.

Immediately after BELVIN's resignation as Exalted Cyclops of the Orlando branch of the Georgia Klan, [redacted] and the others secretly obtained a charter for a Winter Garden lodge of the Georgia Klan. If he had known [redacted] and these others were in the process of secretly obtaining the charter for the Winter Garden lodge from the Atlanta Headquarters, he would certainly have stopped it.

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When questioned concerning his knowledge of HARRY T. MOORE and any other negro leaders and their activities in the State of Florida, BELVIN persisted in denying he even knew HARRY MOORE or the identity of any negro leaders. He called the NAACP "the National Colored People's Betterment League", claimed he never heard that members of that group were active in Orlando and the State after the Groveland incident and further claimed that the first time he heard the name HARRY T. MOORE was when he saw it in the newspaper the day after MOORE was killed.

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He insisted that the Kio Klan committee, while he was in it, never took into consideration the activities of any specific negro leaders but he admits having heard talk of negro leaders generally.

BELVIN states he never saw any floor plan of the home of HARRY T. MOORE and claims that the only time he was ever in Mims or stopped in Mims was 20 years ago when his truck broke down at the center of Mims. He states he might have driven through Mims but has never stopped there since that time 20 years ago. He claims he has not been in Titusville in over 10 years and was in Cocoa Beach in 1936.

The name FORTEMBERRY sounds very familiar to him but he cannot actually place it.

Since the death of HARRY MOORE he has heard MOORE was trying to get "nigger equality."

When questioned concerning the four or five incidents in Orange County during the past year in which violence occurred, BELVIN claimed ignorance of all except the [redacted] incident wherein a negro home was burned. He alleges that he contributed a sum of money to assist the negro in recovering his loss.

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BELVIN further claims he was surprised when the Mims explosion happened, doesn't know who could have done it and doubts that Klansmen in the Orlando area would have guts enough to stick dynamite under a house. When asked if he knew who might have performed such a deed at Mims, he replied it might have come from the Klan in Miami. Although he has never been there personally, does not know any individual member of the Miami Klan, he has been told there is a wild cat Klan in Miami. He was unable to elaborate any further and could not recall who told him about the Miami Klan but suggested that the Grand Dragon at Wildwood (whose name he could not recall) would be in a position to furnish information concerning the activities of the Miami Klan.

The topic of explosives was brought into the interview. BELVIN related that immediately after he bought the acreage where he is now residing he desired to clear a small patch of land for cultivation. Inasmuch as he never handled a stick of dynamite in his life prior to that time, BELVIN had [redacted] come out to the property and blow some of the stumps with dynamite. Because [redacted] was slow about it and only worked at it a few hours a day, [redacted] is alleged to have stated he did not desire to continue dynamiting stumps over a long period of time in any one day

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because a person is apt to become careless and somebody might be hurt and therefore he would only work a short time on any day in blowing stumps). BELVIN arranged with a bulldozer operator then doing a job near Narcucy, Florida (whose name he does not recall) to come to the acreage on the lake and push the stumps off the land. Dislodging these stumps cost approximately \$5. a stump. The bulldozer operator suggested to him that it would be easier, and cheaper, to do it with dynamite.

The operator furnished one case of 40% dynamite and slow burning match fuse. BELVIN claimed that he read the instructions that came with the dynamite and blew the rest of the stumps on that small portion of land he was clearing. At the time, which was approximately two years ago, BELVIN owned a tract of approximately 160 acres but cleared only a very small portion of the tract.

He further insists this was the only time he ever handled dynamite in his life. There were only three sticks of dynamite left from the case and he threw these three into the lake. As a reason for not using dynamite or not being able to use dynamite, BELVIN claims that because of his illness, which prevents him from running, or maintaining his equilibrium, he would not be able to run away from a dynamite blast.

It should be noted that BELVIN claims he is unable to lift more than 20 pounds at a time and is unable to clench either fist because of the swelling in the joints of his fingers. BELVIN claims that about six weeks ago he had a "black out" in the street and spent sometime in the Florida Sanitarium in Orlando receiving transfusions and other treatments under the care of Dr. SUTTER. He has also been receiving treatments off and on in recent years at the Orlando Orthopedic Hospital and the Bay Fines Veterans Hospital.

Recently he sold his property on the lake and is presently looking for a place closer to town inasmuch as he has been instructed if he is not within quick riding distance of a hospital he would not be able to survive another attack.

BELVIN states he was at home on Christmas day with his wife and two sons, [redacted] who were visiting him. He arose at 9:30 or 10 A.M. Christmas day and had dinner at 2 P.M. He claims he does not know whether or not he and his family had supper in a restaurant in Orlando, again pleading faulty memory.

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He believes that a [redacted] employee of the Florida SENTINEL

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newspaper, Orlando, might have visited the BELVIN home sometime during Christmas day.

During the interview BELVIN made the following observations about various individuals concerning whom he was questioned:

[redacted] has been an officer of the Orlando lodge of the Georgia Klan but he cannot furnish any other information about [redacted] activities;

The name [redacted] is familiar to him;

He does not recall whether or not [redacted] was at Groveland at the time of the incidents;

[redacted] is a member of the Apopka branch and could have been at Groveland at the time of the incidents;

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He cannot recall whether or not [redacted] was at Groveland at the time of the incidents but states that [redacted] is a good sort of a boy and does not believe he is too reckless;

PAT HALL is a "peculiar cuss, they threw the pattern away when he was made" - PAT tried to be his friend at the time of the dissention in the Orlando lodge arising out of the Groveland incidents - PAT quit the organization after BELVIN resigned as Exalted Cyclops and has attended only two or three meetings since that time. He doesn't know whether or not PAT HALL was at Groveland at the time of the incidents - PAT HALL and EARL BROOKLYN don't get along together. To illustrate that they do not associate with each other, BELVIN related that about a year ago EARL BROOKLYN was sick and when BELVIN called PAT HALL and questioned him about it PAT didn't even know that BROOKLYN had been ill;

He knows SMITH MANNING who belonged to the Orlando Klan while he (BELVIN) was Exalted Cyclops and would bring up all sorts of proposals, sometimes suggesting that they take out a man and thrash him just for the lack of something to do - he did not believe SMITH MANNING nor PAT HALL had been attending Klan meetings very regularly in recent years.

BELVIN states that no particular person was the custodian of the membership lists in a Klan lodge but that it was a practice of keeping the identity of the person with such custody a secret. The lists or book would be continually on the move from one member to another and sometimes



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three or four dummy books would be kept circulating in order to conceal the whereabouts of the true list.

At one time the collection of dues was in the hands of [redacted] [redacted] dues being collected either quarterly or annually.

When questioned concerning [redacted] BELVIN replied the only [redacted] he knew was the man who operated the [redacted] [redacted] in Orlando.

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The following is a description of TILLIMAN HOLLY BELVIN, as obtained through interrogation and observation:

Name	TILLIMAN HOLLY BELVIN
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	10-29-93
Place of birth	Sumter County, South Carolina
Height	5'11½"
Weight	230
Eyes	Blue, wears horn rimmed glasses
Hair	Gray - slight tinge of black
Complexion	Rough with sallow tinge in color
Build	Heavy
Occupation	Automobile mechanic - unemployed
Physical condition	Poor, allegedly has heart condition as result of extreme spinal injury in 1944; joints, particularly legs, swollen.
Peculiarities	Small feet, size 8 shoe
Father	JAMES MONROE BELVIN, deceased
Mother	SARAH HENRETTI, deceased
Brothers	DUNCAN L. BELVIN, Sumter, S.C. LOREN M. BELVIN, Concord, N.C. WILLIAM T. BELVIN, Fort Myers, Florida
Sisters	Mrs. BILL (MAUDE) PARSON, Fitzgerald, Georgia Mrs. HOLLIS (BEULAH) ARANTIS, whereabouts unknown.
Wife	ELSIE VIOLA MORRISON, married Kissimmee, Florida, 1925
Daughter	[redacted] Orlando.

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Sons	[redacted] Y.M.C.A., Sumter, South Carolina
Education ASN	[redacted] Atlanta Southern College, Pharmaceutical Branch, Atlanta Residence: Y.M.C.A., Atlanta, Georgia, 9th grade #2993479, honorably discharged 1919 also fingerprinted as civilian em- ployee Orlando Air Base, World War II
Employment	1922 Central Machine and Parts, Orlando as mechanic. Self-employed, auto garage 20 odd years.
Residence	Box 400, Route 4, Lake Drawdy, Orange County, Florida.
Past residences	419 S. Hughey Street, Orlando 6-4-37 to 1950 2137 W. Jackson Street, Orlando 1927- 37 — Amelia Street, Orlando 6-21-21 or 22 to 1927

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Photographs in various poses were taken of TILLMAN BELVIN with his consent.

It should be noted that insofar as BELVIN's explanation of his whereabouts Christmas day, 1951, he continued to plead faulty memory. At first he stated that his daughter, [redacted] visited him and the family Christmas day but immediately changed his mind, saying that she didn't come down from Oil City, Pennsylvania until January, 1952. He stated that his two sons, above named, had Christmas dinner with them. He insisted he could not recall whether or not the entire family traveled into the City of Orlando that evening for Christmas supper.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent in Charge W. W. BURKE and Special Agents [redacted] and ROBERT E. [redacted] on January 20, 1952:

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BasIs: Mrs. TILLMAN H. BELVIN, wife of suspect BELVIN interviewed for any information she would furnish regarding husband's KKK activities.

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Mrs. TILLMAN H. BELVIN, Route 4, Box 400, Lake DRAWDY, Orange County, Florida, advised she and TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN have been married for 26 years and for the past 16 months have resided in their residence on Route 4. She stated that they formerly resided on Hughey Street in Orlando, Florida, where BELVIN operated an automobile repair garage.

She further advised that BELVIN has not been employed for approximately two years due to ill health. She also stated that approximately 16 months ago they purchased 160 acres of land on Route 4 for \$6,000. cash and since that time they have constructed their present residence on Route 4. She further related they have now sold the residence and are presently endeavoring to locate living quarters near Bay Pines, Florida, in order that BELVIN may receive medical attention at the Veterans Hospital located at Bay Pines.

She said that approximately one year ago they sold 120 acres of the original 160 acres purchased on Route 4 and received \$6,500. She also stated they previously owned an apartment house in Orlando which they have sold and they are presently receiving \$75. a month from a house which they own and rent in Orlando.

In regard to BELVIN's present illness, she stated he has received three months medical attention at Bay Pines and also has received medical attention at the Florida Sanitarium in Orlando. She described his physical condition as being of such a nature that he has not been anywhere by himself for the past 17 years. She said his present illness began approximately 5 years ago and in recent months he has not gone anywhere without her accompanying him inasmuch as he fears an attack might occur at any time. She stated she does not know the exact nature of his physical ailment or the "spells" and "black outs" which he suffers.

Mrs. BELVIN stated that to her knowledge her husband is not presently nor has ever been connected with the Ku Klux Klan in any way

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whatsoever. She also advised he has never spoken to her regarding any Ku Klux Klan activity in Orlando or any other area. She said that if her husband was or is presently a member of the Klan it is a complete surprise to her. Mrs. BELVIN advised she is personally opposed to the Klan and Klan activities and expressed the opinion her husband may not have told her that he is or has been a Klan member inasmuch as he is aware of her disapproval of the Klan.

She stated she and her husband are members of the Baptist Church and she herself is a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Odd Fellows but other than the church she does not know any organization of which her husband is a member.

Mrs. BELVIN was questioned as to whether or not she has ever seen a belt buckle in the possession of her husband with the letters "KKK" or a cross emblem on the buckle inasmuch as information has previously been reported that BELVIN at one time wore a buckle with such type of insignia and openly boasted he was a member of the Klan.

Mrs. BELVIN admitted her husband had such type of belt buckle but denied he had ever told her he was a member of the Klan or that the emblem had any significance. In this regard she stated she recalls that on one occasion someone asked her husband about the buckle and at that time he made some remark to the effect that the KKK signified Kappa Kappa Kappa.

Information was also received previously that Mrs. BELVIN has been very active in the Women's Auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan in the Orlando area.

Mrs. BELVIN also stated she never heard of HARRY T. MOORE until she read in the newspapers of the bombing of the MOORE residence.

She also stated she was unaware of the fact that the FBI was making any investigation and no one has spoken to her or to her husband, to her best knowledge, regarding any inquiries being made by the FBI.

Mrs. BELVIN stated her husband is a fancier of firearms and has a number of rifles and two revolvers. She also stated he has a permit to carry a gun. She was questioned as to why her husband keeps two loaded revolvers under his pillow. To this inquiry she stated he had never discussed the matter with her and she assumed he kept the revolvers as a protection against any burglar or intruder.

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Mrs. BELVIN stated she and her husband are very friendly and have been for a number of years with Orange County Sheriff DAVID STARR. She also advised they are acquainted with and frequently visit Mr. and Mrs. EARL BROOKLYN. She says that EARL has not been to the BELVIN residence on Route 4 but once since the BELVINS have resided there and on this occasion he came to borrow a plow. She stated that she does not know whether or not BROOKLYN is a member of the Klan.

She also advised she and her husband are acquainted with the WILL TANNER family who are their neighbors.

Mrs. BELVIN stated her husband, to her knowledge, has never been to Mims, Florida. She does not know whether or not he has been to Apopka.

Mrs. BELVIN stated her husband has never discussed the bombing of the MOORE residence with her or made any statements regarding the bombing.

In regard to the activity of the BELVIN family on Christmas eve 1951 Mrs. BELVIN stated she and her husband and her son-in-law and daughter, [redacted] spent Christmas eve at the BELVIN residence although during the afternoon they took a ride to Orlando to look at the Christmas lights and thereafter returned to the BELVIN residence.

With regard to Christmas day Mrs. BELVIN stated she and her husband got up at approximately 8:30 A.M., had breakfast and were joined by her son-in-law and daughter the [redacted] at approximately 11 A.M. when the [redacted] arrived from Orlando, Florida where they reside at [redacted]

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Mrs. BELVIN stated that during the afternoon of Christmas day she, her husband, her daughter and son-in-law drove into Orlando in BELVIN's Hudson sedan. She stated they went to the [redacted] apartment at [redacted] in order that [redacted] might change clothes and thereafter they rode around Orlando for a while and then returned at approximately 11 P.M. to the BELVIN residence on Route 4. She said she and her husband retired a short time after 11 P.M.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 26, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] (not [redacted] as previously reported) was interviewed inasmuch as she is the daughter of a principal suspect, TILLMAN H. BELVIN, and in order to resolve, if possible, the differences existing in the accounts of their activities on Christmas day, 1951 as related by TILLMAN H. BELVIN and his wife, ELSIE.

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[redacted] of a principal suspect, TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN, resides at [redacted] Orlando, Florida, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Her husband works at the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Orlando and she is employed by the Veterans Administration in Orlando. From 1948 until the present time she has had only occasional contacts with [redacted] TILLMAN and ELSIE BELVIN, inasmuch as she resided at the Y.W.C.A. in Orlando in 1948 until she was married in 1949 and then resided with her husband at Oil City, Pennsylvania.

She insists she knows nothing of [redacted] activities in the Ku Klux Klan and only knew that he was a member at one time because he told her recently.

She arrived at Orlando from Oil City, Pennsylvania, Sunday, December 23, 1951 at 8:30 P.M. and immediately visited her parents home at Lake Drawdy, 16 miles outside of Orlando, staying there until about midnight. She did not see either of her parents again until Christmas eve night when her parents picked up her and her husband and drove around Orlando shopping and admiring the Christmas decorations until about 11:30 P.M.

On Christmas day, 1951, her husband, [redacted] slept late and it wasn't until noon that day that they arrived at her parent's home at Lake Drawdy. They remained at her parent's home with her brothers, [redacted] [redacted] who were also visiting their parents, continually during that afternoon, having Christmas dinner at 3 P.M. The entire group remained at the Belvin home until 7:30 P.M. when all took a ride into Orlando and drove around that area admiring the Christmas decorations until approximately 10:30 P.M. which is the time her parents left them at their home at [redacted] Orlando.

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[redacted] states she has seen EARL BROOKLYN only once and that was about 8 years ago and she has heard her father and mother mention him but knows nothing as to his activities. She insists that [redacted] TILLMAN BELVIN, is not in any way connected with the Mims explosion and that she is not worried about the results of this investigation.

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It should be noted that the accounts of the activities of TILLMAN H. BELVIN, on Christmas day, 1951 as furnished by TILLMAN BELVIN himself, his wife ELSIE BELVIN and [redacted] are at variance with each other.

It should also be noted that TILLMAN BELVIN plead that he had a faulty memory and under no circumstance could he recall accurately his exact whereabouts on Christmas day nor the persons who were at his home during that day. However, he did insist that he was not away from the Orlando area during that day.

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## VI. TRACING OF DYNAMITE

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on January 10 and 11, 1952:

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BASIS: Check of sales of dynamite by the BUMBY Hardware Company at Orlando, Florida.

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[redacted], Merchandise Manager for the BUMBY Hardware Company advised they do not sell or store any dynamite. He stated if any old customers of the company desired to purchase dynamite that the company would order it for them from the duPont Company at Mulberry, Florida. He stated the duPont Company would deliver the dynamite directly to the customer.

[redacted] also advised that according to his records the only person they had ordered dynamite for in the last year were the Florida Power Company and the Orange State Groves in Zellwood, Florida. [redacted] said that the Orange State Groves had ordered 100 pounds of Red Cross Extra 40% dynamite on December 24, 1951. [redacted] did not know when this dynamite had been delivered to the Orange State Groves.

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[redacted] Purchasing Agent for the Orange State Groves, advised they had received two boxes of dynamite from E. I. duPont Company, Mulberry, Florida on December 28, 1951. He said that this dynamite was being used to blast stumps and that it is kept in a vault under his personal care. He said that if any laborer wished to use dynamite it was necessary it was necessary for him to obtain the dynamite from him and that he, [redacted] would later go back and check to see that the laborer had actually blown the stump with it. [redacted] said that none of the dynamite had been stolen or was missing.

[redacted] Orlando, Florida, advised that he has been a professional dynamiter since 1923. He stated he purchased most of his supplies from the Marion Hardware Company, Ocala, Florida and at the Hill Implement Company at Sanford, Florida. [redacted] stated he uses dynamite for ditching, blowing stumps and in breaking hard rock in orange groves.

[redacted] advised that on one or two occasions he does sell a small number of sticks of dynamite to any person he might know. He explained that dynamite was difficult to get in Orlando and that occasionally some of his friends would ask him to sell them some. He said that the only dynamite sold by him during the past year was sold to a [redacted] who operates a



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dairy at Christmas, Florida. [ ] said he sold this dynamite on approximately December 28, 1951.

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He also stated that all of his explosive materials are kept under lock and key and that no dynamite has been stolen or missing.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 12, 14 and 15, 1952:

BASIS: Effort to check the source and supply of dynamite in the State of Florida and particularly in localities where any suspects might reside or operate.

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The following hardware stores and general supply stores in Orlando and its environs were contacted but in no case did any of them handle explosives of any nature:

Berry Hardware Company, 2401 E. South, Orlando  
Bowes Hardware and Paint Store, 2412 E. Robinson, Orlando  
Central Florida Lumber and Supply Company, 1602 N. Mills, Orlando  
Economy Furniture Company, 332 W. Church, Orlando  
Fairview Shores Supply Company, 4439 Edgewater Drive, Orlando  
Fleming, F. W., 933 23rd Avenue, Orlando  
Godfrey Hardware Store, 34 E. Jackson, Orlando  
Handley Lumber Company, Inc., 740 S. Highway, Orlando  
Hill Colonial Hardware, 1105 E. Colonel Drive, Orlando  
Jerry's Paint and Hardware Company, 642 W. Church, Orlando  
John Hardware and Paint Store, 2208 Edgewater, Orlando  
Kelley's Hardware and Feed Store, 2905 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando  
Knox Stores Company, 25 E. Pine, Orlando  
Leonard Wilson Hardware Store, 312 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando  
Feu, Harry P., Inc., 100 W. Livingston, Orlando  
Loomis Hardware and Paint Store, 2529 Kuhl, Orlando  
Orlando Hardware and Supply Company, 2310 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando  
Rose Hardware Store, S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando  
Sid's Hardware and Paint Store, 406 W. Church, Orlando  
Smith's Hardware and General Store, Pinecastle, Florida  
Thomas Lumber Company, 231 W. Grove Avenue, Orlando  
Webb McCoy Hardware Company, 2512 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando  
Wright's Hardware and Sporting Goods, 915 Kuhl Avenue, Orlando  
Russell, T. J. (Wholesale and Manufacturers) 623 Brookhaven Drive, Orlando  
Baldwin Hardware Company, 336 Park Avenue, Winter Park, Florida  
Fries Paint and Hardware, 1380 Orange Avenue, Winter Park  
Galloway's Hardware, 2612 Fern Creek Avenue, Orlando  
Gateway Hardware and Variety, 1005 S. Orlando Ave., Orlando  
McFarland Hardware, Maitland, Florida.

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Stoke's Hardware, previously known as Ryan Hardware Company, Apopka, Florida  
A.M. & S Hardware and Sporting Goods Company, Mount Dora, Florida  
Rehbaum Hardware, Mount Dora, Florida  
Brown Builders Supply, Mount Dora, Florida  
Lake County Lumber Supply Company, Tavares, Florida  
Central Sand Company, Tavares, Florida.

The Central Sand Company, having a large sand pit or quarry, uses considerable dynamite in blowing down the sand banks. [redacted] owner, advised that he purchases all of his dynamite through Kingsley's in Leesburg, Florida.

[redacted] exhibited his dynamite storage to the Agents and it was noted that the dynamite is kept in one heavy steel locker and his dynamite caps and fuse in a separate heavy steel locker. It is noted that all of the dynamite on hand was 40% Atlas. [redacted] had on hand a considerable quantity of electric caps. They use mainly #6 electric caps which are also Atlas with an 8' lead.

[redacted] had on hand a considerable quantity of Rockmaster electric caps #0, 2 and 4 all with 30' leads. [redacted] explains that his 0 caps are instantaneous, the #2 detonate in two tenths of a second and the #4 in four tenths of a second.

[redacted] advised that his electric caps are also purchased from Kingsley's in Leesburg. His consumption averages approximately four cases of dynamite per month.

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[redacted] maintains the keys to the dynamite chest on his own person and he does not allow other people to have access to the explosive. At no time in the past has any dynamite disappeared and no attempt has ever been made to break into and steal any of his dynamite.

[redacted] informed the Agents that he was personally concerned over the terrorist activities in the State resulting from the bombings and attempts in Miami and also the killing of HARRY MOORE and his wife in Mims, Florida. He believed that either a State, or preferably federal restrictions, should be placed on the purchase of dynamite because any one can purchase dynamite "as easy as buying a stick of gum."

[redacted] Manager of Kingsley's, a large hardware store at Leesburg, Florida, advised that he obtains his dynamite, 40% Atlas, from

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[redacted] the distributor of the Atlas Powder Company of Knoxville, Tennessee. A few cases of 60% Atlas dynamite are obtained on special order from either Merrill Company in Jacksonville or the Merrill Company in Miami. He handles Clover Brand fuse (orange color) with #6 detonators, also distributed by [redacted]

The principal customers of the store are the Telephone Company, Florida Power and Light Company, the County District Road Department and Central Sand Company.

His inventory of 40% dynamite is presently checked only up to May, 1951. His fuse inventory is up to date. The fuse inventory, upon being examined by the above mentioned Agents, showed that a considerable amount of fuse, both electric and match fuse was sold by this store.

It is the policy of the store that if a stranger asks a salesman for dynamite or fuse, [redacted] is first contacted by the salesman for authorization to sell either the dynamite or fuse. It is [redacted] practice to speak with such a customer and attempt to determine whether or not his use of dynamite is legitimate. Of course, all these sales, other than to regular customers of the store, are on a cash basis and no names are maintained on the sales slips or on the records of the store.

[redacted] states as far as he could recall, there were no unusual sales of dynamite. All the salesmen at Kingsley's Store were contacted in order to determine if any person or persons other than regular customers had purchased dynamite.

[redacted] a salesmen of the Kingsley Store, stated he recalls that about six months ago a man on three or four occasions made cash purchases of quantities of dynamite for use in blasting through a canal at Lake Apopka. He recalls that the man, whose name is unknown to him, but who appeared to be engaged in the legitimate use of such dynamite, purchased a case at the time of his last visit to the store and remarked at that time that he was sure he would have enough to complete his work on the canal.

[redacted] a salesman at Kingsley's, recalled that in December, 1951, a man who was working for a salvage Company out of Jacksonville, Florida, which company was performing work on a turntable of the old highway bridge nearby, purchased about two cases of 60% dynamite, tendering a check from that company in payment. A check of the store records revealed that a Logan Diving Company of Jacksonville, Florida had purchased two cases of 60% dynamite on December 14, 1951 with a company check of \$48.41. This appeared to be a purchase for a legitimate use of dynamite.

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[redacted] a clerk in the Kingsley Store, recalled that in about the third week of December, 1951, two young men who were in their middle 20s, purchased two or three stocks of 40% dynamite with the necessary fuse to explode them in order to blow some stumps at Center Hill, which is approximately 15 miles from Leesburg. There was no way in which either of these two young men could be identified or traced, according to [redacted]

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[redacted] did remark that his store's inventory on dynamite has never been absolutely accurate but that the store usually strives for about 95% accuracy. His store has had no thefts of dynamite at any time.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent WILLIAM J. JAMISON at Lakeland, Florida on January 15 and 24, 1952:

BASIS: Information was received from [redacted] Putnam Hardware, Ft. Pierce, Florida, that his source of supply of dynamite is [redacted] duPont Dynamite Company, Mulberry, Florida.

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Confidential Informants T-4 and T-5, of known reliability, advised that [redacted] a long-time resident of Mulberry, is a salesman of explosives for duPont. [redacted] is also a member of the "ALL AMERICAN CLUB" which is affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan. T-5 advised that members of the "ALL AMERICAN CLUB" attempted to recruit him for membership at which time it was represented to be a part of the KU KLUX KLAN. T-5 advised that [redacted] has been active in the organization in that he has attended and continues to attend meetings and dinners at the organization's club house near Mulberry.

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[redacted] was interviewed at his place of business, a warehouse having no street address. He advised that he is distributor for E. I. duPONT de NEMOURS COMPANY. Headquarters for his division is the company offices, Brown and Marx Building, Birmingham 2, Alabama.

[redacted] stated that the State of Florida is broken into three sales territories, having headquarters in Miami, Ocala and Mulberry. Sales representative in Miami is a [redacted] Sales representative in Ocala is [redacted] who is also Superintendent for the State of Florida.

The magazine for the Mulberry territory is located at Drane Field, Lakeland, Florida. [redacted] said that more than a year ago the magazine was broken into; however, he determined almost definitely that this was done by children. [redacted] found a small boy burning a stick of dynamite near the magazine at the time. After that occurrence, new locks were installed and there have been no reoccurrences.

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[redacted] said that he handled various types of dynamite ranging from 20% to 60%. He has not handled any 60% Red Cross dynamite for about one and a half years. The last he handled was sold from the Miami magazine. [redacted] delivered it to a contractor along the canal going into Ft. Lauderdale. He said that most of his sales are to the numerous phosphate companies in his territory and also to hardware stores. He keeps records of all sales. He said that for the ordinary sale he keeps a green copy of the sales order. The customer receives a yellow copy and the company in Birmingham receives three white copies. Hunt Truck Lines services are used for transporting explosives. Whenever [redacted] delivers and uses Hunt Truck Lines services, the Truck Line receives the original white Shipping Order, the company in Birmingham receives the yellow and two white copies and [redacted] keeps the green copy. [redacted] said that the same procedure is followed in handling fuses

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and caps. He handles Orange Wax Clover fuses which he said are widely used in this area. He said also that he handles electric fuses which are used to a greater extent than any other type in the phosphate territory.

[redacted] said that fuses of the Orange Wax Clover type are usually crimped to the cap by a person biting it. He said that there are crimping pliers designed for this but that they are not easily obtained or widely utilized. The company does not permit the sales representatives to stock the crimping pliers and all such pliers are ordered from the Birmingham headquarters.

[redacted] advised that he is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He said that he is a member of the All American Club but that it is not in any affiliated with any Klan organization. It was noted during the interview that [redacted] appeared to be uneasy. He raised no question as to the identity of subjects, motive for the bombing or related matters, and expressed no personal feelings in the matter such as sympathy for victims or condemnation of the subjects.

[redacted] advised that he has never, to the best of his knowledge, sold explosives in Lake and Brevard Counties, with one exception. He delivered 50 cases of 40% straight N.G. Dynamite to U. S. Department of the Air Force, AFB, Cocoa, Florida during the week before Christmas, 1951. He was unable to locate his bill of sale on this and believed that he was required to turn all copies in because so many copies were needed by the AFB at Cocoa.

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[redacted] advised that he has one customer in Orlando, Orange County, the JOSEPH BUMBY HARDWARE COMPANY at 102 West Church Street. He advised that BUMBY re-sells the dynamite and [redacted] sometimes ships direct to the Orange State Groves at Zellwood, Florida for BUMBY. [redacted] has no filing system for his sales records. He was able to locate records of the following:

- 12/24/51 2 cases 40% Red Cross Extra, Joseph Bumby Hardware Co., shipped direct to Orange State Groves, Zellwood, Florida
- 1/4/52 2 cases 40% Red Cross Extra, Joseph Bumby Hardware Co., shipped direct to Orange State Groves, Zellwood, Florida
- 1/4/52 1000 ft. Orange Wax Clover Fuse, Bumby Hardware Co.

## VII. FBI LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS

Following the blast at the MOORE home the complete area within a radius of ten yards surrounding the blast crater was minutely examined and specimens of debris, dirt and articles of clothing were obtained. These items are described as 1 through 6 as follows and were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory on December 27, 1951. The Laboratory submitted its report by letter dated December 29, 1951.

1. 3 quart containers of soil and debris taken from the center of the blast crater and from the edges of the crater and the surrounding area.

The Laboratory advised with respect to these specimens that they contain many wood fragments, glass fragments and several small wads of cotton fiber. There was nothing present in this sample to permit identification of the particular type of explosive substance used.

2. Bed sheet taken from the bed of the victims which was in the debris.
3. Debris taken from the immediate area under the flooring of the bedroom of the victims.
4. Articles of clothing taken from the rubble and debris of the bedroom area.

The Laboratory stated with respect to items 2, 3 and 4 that they consisted primarily of fragments of wood, glass, cleansing tissue, miscellaneous dirt, dust and debris but nothing was found to permit identification of the explosive substance used. The Laboratory stated that on the basis of the presence of the numerous wood fragments it appeared a high order explosive substance was used. Dynamite is classified as a high order explosive.



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5. Plaster cast of footprint found in loose sand in orange grove area in vicinity of victims' home.

6. Plaster cast of footprint found in loose sand in same area.

The Laboratory stated with respect to items 5 and 6 that the size of the shoes that produced the impressions reproduced in the plaster casts is estimated to be between 7 and 9. No markings were found on the cast which would assist in tracing the shoes making the impressions.

Thereafter all the remaining debris, sand and soil in the bombed crater and in the surrounding vicinity under the house of the victims was carefully sifted and the items listed below were found. These were submitted to the Laboratory by letter dated January 2, 1952, and are described as items 7 through 11. The Laboratory replied by teletype dated January 7, 1952.

7. Several pieces of glass, a heavy round rubber washer, a substance which appeared to be some sort of wax or candle tallow. Two of the pieces of glass were found deep in the crater caused by the explosion and the other pieces, together with the rubber washer were found within a 6' radius of the crater and under the house with the other debris.

8. Several pieces of glass and a cork stopper which was found in sifting the debris in the immediate vicinity of the bombed crater.

9. Brown-colored dust which was scraped from under the windowsill which was located immediately above and below the north bedroom window of the victims.

10. One piece of rope containing an unknown purple and yellow discoloration found in the debris under the house under the victims' bedroom. One metal clip found in the explosion crater. One rubber washer found in the debris under the victims' bedroom. A small spring found in the debris under the victims' bedroom.

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11. One piece of glass tubing found in the orange grove north of the victims' residence approximately 25 yards from the side of the house.

The Laboratory advised with respect to items 7 to 11 as follows: some pieces of glass mentioned in item 7 fit pieces described in item 8. Pieces from both items came from a glass vial with 3/4" outside diameter. The refractive index of all the glass except one small fragment was said to suggest that the majority of the glass came from the same or similar source. The use of such vials is unlimited. They are found in laboratories, pharmacies, etc. It was stated the foreign substance on the glass is paraffin wax. The large latex rubber washer has a hole the same diameter as the vial and could have been used as a holder. It was stated washers like this are frequently seen in laboratories around neck graduated cylinders to prevent the cylinders from chipping if they topple over. It could have wide use as a cushion in many industries, particularly in radio, television, etc.

It was stated the cork stopper fits the neck portion of the above mentioned vial and could have been the stopper for this vial.

It was stated the metal clip mentioned previously is from a pilot light clamp found on some radios and television sets.

The steel spring mentioned has many uses.

The brown colored dust scraped from the window sill consists of wood and sand particles.

The rope is sash cord. The foreign substance is similar to crystal violet, also known as gentian violet, used as dye in the textile industry as well as antiseptic and bactericide.

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The Laboratory stated generally with respect to the above items that a glass vial of the size which would approximate the size of the vial represented by the pieces of glass submitted could hold sufficient nitroglycerine to cause the damage in this case. It was stated that nitroglycerine is usually exploded by shock such as that from a blasting or electrical blasting cap. It was stated a candle would not normally be used to set off nitroglycerine but could possibly, under certain conditions. This conclusion by the Laboratory was in answer to a hypothetical question as to whether a candle placed in the top of a test tube filled with an explosive chemical such as nitroglycerine could burn down completely, causing the lighted wick to drop into the chemical and cause the explosion. The Laboratory stated that had the vial from which the glass fragments came been used to hold nitroglycerine and the nitroglycerine been set off while in the vial it is doubtful whether any glass fragments would have been found. It was stated none of the submitted materials are of value in determining the type of explosive substance used or the method used to set off an explosive charge. The residue found at an explosion scene is usually carbon which could have originated from a number of different sources other than the explosive used.

The Laboratory was requested to advise whether from an examination of a piece of wood discolored by the flash or smoke from an explosion it could determine the type of explosive material used.

The Laboratory stated in answer that in the event a blasting cap or electrical blasting cap were used to set off the charge there may be bronze particles imbedded in the wood members. It was stated that in view of this it would be desirable to forward the wood, at least that closest to where the explosion occurred, to the Laboratory for examination.

The Laboratory was also advised that there had been obtained a piece of the main supporting sleeper which contained a greyish deposit which appeared to have been blasted onto the wood from the

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explosion. Visually the grey substance appeared to be similar to the greyish material submitted to the Laboratory which was obtained from the soil in the bottom of the crater. The Laboratory was requested to advise whether from further examination of this greyish deposit they could determine the type of explosive material used. The Laboratory advised that the greyish deposit was probably sand inasmuch as examination of the wood previously forwarded by the Sheriff's Office of Dade County revealed the same type of deposits as described to be sand.

12. 8 pieces of wood containing smoke and other blasting effects obtained from the immediate vicinity where the explosion occurred. These pieces of wood were submitted to the Laboratory on January 9, 1952, for the purpose of determining, in accordance with the Laboratory's suggestion, whether any pieces of bronze or copper are imbedded in the wood to indicate whether or not a blasting cap was used to detonate the unknown explosive charge and whether they grey foreign substance on one of the pieces of wood could give any indication as to what type explosive material was used.

13. Portion of one of the mattresses on which the victims were sleeping, these forwarded January 9, 1952.

The Laboratory by teletype dated January 23, 1952, advised that nothing was found in the wood or mattress which would assist in identifying the explosive substance used or the method of igniting an explosive substance. Metal particles dug from two pieces of wood were identified as corroded pieces of galvanized wire resembling chicken wire. A peculiar pattern of concentric rings on one piece of wood was believed to have been caused by a bed spring when the wood was driven against it by the force of the explosion.

On January 14, 1952, items 14 to 17 were forwarded to the Laboratory for examination.

14. Cardboard container containing soil from the vicinity of the home of victim HARRY T. MOORE, which soil was not affected by the explosion, and is a specimen of the ordinary soil in the area.

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15. Cardboard container containing soil which was taken from the center of the crater caused by the explosion of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This TNT charge was set up in the center of a large wash tub full of soil taken from the area of the victims' home not previously contaminated by the original explosion.

16. Cardboard container containing soil taken from the center of a crater caused by the explosion of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This dynamite was detonated in the center of a separate wash tub full of soil taken from the vicinity of the victims' home, which soil was not previously contaminated by instant explosion.

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17. Cardboard container containing soil taken from the center of a crater formed by the detonation of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and laid flat in the center of a large wash tub of soil taken from the area around the victims' home, uncontaminated by the original explosion. [REDACTED]

To date the FBI Laboratory has not furnished the results of its examination of the above four items.

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VIII. UNSOLVED INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE INVOLVING  
USE OF DYNAMITE, ORANGE COUNTY, 1950-51

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 16, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] was interviewed inasmuch as he had information concerning an act of violence in which a negro home was burned in the Orlando area.

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[redacted] with offices at [redacted] [redacted] Orlando who resides on Magnolia Farm, several miles northwest of Orlando on [redacted] furnished the following information:

Late in the spring of 1950 he sold a negro, [redacted] a piece of property 120x390' located on the hard top road to Forest City, just inside Seminole County, Florida off the Old Apopka Road. The deed was actually dated in September, 1950. A short time prior to the consummation of the sale a white woman, INEZ MERIDETH, over 60 years of age, who had a reputation in Seminole County as being a famous old bootlegger and prostitute, and who owned considerable property in the vicinity of the land being sold to [redacted] came into [redacted] officeto tell him he had better not sell to negroes because she did not want any negroes on that road.

Incidentally, there were no homes on that road inasmuch as it was occupied by the groves, dump and plant of [redacted]

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In October, 1950, before the plumbing was installed in the frame building being constructed by [redacted] as a home, two cars and a truck drove up to the house at night with six white men in them, none of whom had any hoods. According to information developed by [redacted] these men went through the house tearing up the place preparing it for burning and set it on fire, also set fire to a valuable pile of lumber on an adjacent lot.

A young negro in the neighborhood at one time saw four men in the house as they were preparing it for burning and two men out in the truck. The men drove off hurriedly when a car drove up to the vicinity.

Prior to the burning of [redacted] home a cross had been burned by the Ku Klux Klan in that neighborhood.

Upon learning of the fire [redacted] who has considerable

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influence in Lake County and Seminole County, necessitating that they start an immediate investigation.

[redacted] who is the wealthiest land owner in that area, offered a reward to anyone who would solve the case. Most of the white persons in the area contributed to the relief of the negro, [redacted] so that he actually gained financially.

The day after the burning the two [redacted] boys, who lived in the [redacted] of the burned house, left town. Their mother made a remark she sure hoped her boys had not been involved in the burning.

Some time later someone (identity unknown) mentioned that [redacted] (first name not mentioned) was one of the men in the truck at the scene of the burning. It so happened that two brothers, [redacted] lived in a house on [redacted] property. [redacted] states that [redacted] [redacted] who is presently in England, is a person of very good character and reputation and certainly would not be involved, however, another brother, [redacted] who had come from Alabama to live with them on [redacted] property was a vicious character. Either [redacted] could have been one of the persons referred to as the [redacted] in the truck.

It should be noted that [redacted] murdered a white man in a drunken brawl six months ago and is presently serving a sentence in Raiford Prison, Florida.

The names EARL BROOKLYN and SIMON SMITH MANNING meant nothing to [redacted]. He has heard the name TILLMAN BELVIN but cannot place it. He believes he has seen PAT HALL somewhere in Orlando but cannot be specific. He knows nothing of the activities of these individuals.

[redacted] related the following:

A short time before Christmas, 1951 while he was eating at Sallie's Tropical Grill, [redacted] a man whom he had seen in the area at various times, and addressed him [redacted] by name, complained vehemently about the negro high school which was in the process of construction in Orlando. He complained there were more facilities being installed in that school than in the white school and predicted that "Just wait until its finished and everybody gets his money and cut out of it and it will be blown to hell."

[redacted] directly told this man that he "was crazy" and the

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"biggest complete damn fool he had ever heard" [redacted] believed that this particular man, who had undoubtedly been drinking heavily at the time, was a painter who drives a truck, who purchased a lot east of Paramore on 19th Street and was building on that lot. He described the man as white, approximately [redacted] years old, 5'9", 150 pounds, hair light or red in color.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and GLYDE P. ADERHOLD on January 17, 1952:

BASIS: Memo of Special Agent JOHN C. CONNORS dated January 15, 1952 requesting that a [redacted] who are in charge of construction of the West Orlando Colored High School be interviewed concerning threats to bomb that school. This memo also requested that details be obtained concerning the bombing of a frozen custard stand located adjacent to the school property.

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[redacted]  
[redacted] of the Zaret Construction Company at Orlando, Florida, advised that they had been working on the West Orlando Colored High School since the day construction started. They said when they first arrived in Orlando they heard rumors and gossip that the school would be blown up but stated they had heard these rumors in various bars and restaurants. Both stated they were of the opinion the Orlando newspapers were responsible for starting these rumors.

They explained that when Orange County condemned the property on which the school is located the local newspaper in an editorial feared that the school would be blown up before it was completed. This statement was apparently made by the paper because white residents in the area where the school is being located strongly contested the condemnation proceedings.

[redacted] said the school is almost completed and they have not as yet received any threats or notices anything suspicious around the school. They will immediately advise the FBI if they do notice anything suspicious.

[redacted] for the Zaret Construction Company, who has been assigned until January 9, 1952 at Orlando, Florida, advised an Agent in the Orlando Resident Agency on January 10, 1952 that at approximately 2 A.M. on the morning of January 9, 1952 he stopped in a hamburger stand located near the Angebilt Hotel. He stated while he was having a copy of coffee approximately fifteen men came into the restaurant and sat down at the counter. [redacted] stated while these men were waiting for their orders he heard them discussing the West Orlando Colored High School. [redacted] advised he heard some of the men say that they doubted that the school would ever be completed because someone would blow it up. According to [redacted] while these

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men were talking they kept looking at him.

[ ] said he could not remember the name of the restaurant nor did he know any of the men. He said the men were all well dressed in their sport or dress clothes and that he doubted he would ever be able to identify any of them if he saw them again.

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The rear end of the Creamette Frozen Custard Stand, 212 S. Orange Blossom Trail, was blown out by dynamite at 1 A.M. on November 1, 1951. It is to be noted that this frozen custard stand is not adjacent to the West Orlando Colored High School but is located approximately two miles north of the school. The stand was unoccupied at the time of the explosion and no one was injured.

[ ] of the Creamette, has advised the Orlando Police Department that approximately ~~three months~~ before the explosion a white man came to him and suggested that he install another window at the stand for the use of negroes. This man pointed out to [ ] that if he had another window it would not be necessary for the negroes to stand in line with the white people.

[ ] explained that he sells his frozen custard through a window and that it is not necessary to come inside of his stand to make a purchase. [ ] said the man had been very friendly and that he thought at the time this man was probably a building contractor looking for some work. [ ] told this person that he would think it over but that he did not believe he had enough money to install another window at that time.

[ ] remembered that when the man finished talking to him he crossed South Orange Blossom Trail and went to a gasoline station operated by [ ]. He saw this man get into an automobile with about three other white men. [ ] has advised the Police Department he believed he could identify this person if he saw him again and that [ ] also has an employee who saw the man at the time he contacted [ ].

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Sergeant [ ] of the Orlando Police Department advised that the only evidence collected at the explosion were one or two boxes that had been burned by the explosion. He said these boxes were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory and the Laboratory was unable to furnish them any information as to what type of explosive was used. [ ] said it was the opinion of the detectives that worked on the case that dynamite had been used.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents PRUE C. CLINKSCALES and CLYDE P. ADERHOLD on January 21, 1952:

BASIS: Interview [redacted] Clerk at the Creamette, a frozen custard stand, located at 210 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orland, Florida to ascertain if he could furnish a description of the unknown person that suggested to [redacted] the manager of the Creamette that he install a separate service window for the use of negroes.

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[redacted] who resides at [redacted], advised that he did recall the man that suggested to [redacted] the manager of the Creamette that he should install a separate service window for use of negroes.

[redacted] said this person visited the Creamette approximately three weeks before the explosion which occurred on November 1, 1951. He recalled that the man was there right at 7 P.M. because that was the hour that [redacted] was going off from work that day. He stated that after [redacted] had talked to the man, [redacted] had instructed [redacted] to follow this unknown person.

[redacted] said that he followed this person and that the man went across the street to enter a frozen custard stand and then went to MOSES' Pharmacy. According to [redacted] this unknown person only talked for a few minutes to the manager of the frozen custard stand located directly across the street from the Creamette.

After going into MOSES' Pharmacy where the unknown person stayed only for a few minutes, the unknown person went across the street to a Sinclair Gasoline Station which is operated by [redacted] then observed the unknown person, [redacted] and a tall individual dressed in a brown felt hat with a coat and tie on holding a discussion near a 1950 green Pontiac two-door automobile.

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[redacted] said that he then stopped observing these individuals and went home. [redacted] is confident he can identify the man that came to the Creamette if he should see him again. He gave the following description of this person:

Age	36-40
Height	5'8"
Weight	200

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Dress  
Hair  
Build

White dress shirt, slacks  
Dark, neatly combed, slightly wavy  
Stocky with protruding stomach

[redacted] of the James Sinclair Service Station, South Orange Blossom Trail, which is located approximately 100 yards south and across the street from the Creamette, advised he could not remember the occasion when he and two other persons were standing by a 1950 green Pontiac automobile. [redacted] stated that he had been contacted by Detectives of the Orlando Police Department regarding the same matter but that he could not give any assistance in identifying this person.

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He stated that to the best of his knowledge none of his regular customers had a 1950 green Pontiac automobile. [redacted] advised that [redacted] the brother of EARL BROOKLYN, who deals with him occasionally, does own a 1950 Pontiac automobile but to the best of his memory this car is a two-tone gray. [redacted] could not recall that [redacted] EARL BROOKLYN were ever in his filling station at the same time.

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IX. MISCELLANEOUS

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 19, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] was reported to be one of the renegades of the Klan in the Apopka area.

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[redacted] also known as [redacted] Apopka, who operates [redacted] Spopka, upon being interviewed, furnished the following information:

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He knows EARL BROOKLYN, likes him as a "straight shooter" but has never been on a "ride" with EARL BROOKLYN and was not in the same lodge of the Klan with him. He knows that EARL BROOKLYN hunts a lot and met him through [redacted] of Apopka. He has not seen EARL BROOKLYN in the past 8 months and hasn't spoken to him in at least a year.

[redacted] insists he does not know TILLMAN BELVIN, PAT HALL or TOM RICE.

When questioned about HARRY MOORE he stated that when he saw the photograph of HARRY MOORE in the newspaper after MOORE's death he recognized him as having been in his shop about a year ago inquiring about someone in Apopka. He states he has never seen the floor plans of HARRY MOORE's house, does not even know where Mims, Florida is and first hear of the Mims explosion on Wednesday afternoon, December 26, 1951 when he read about it in the newspaper. He does not believe that the Klan did that job inasmuch as it was not the type of operation performed by the Klan. He explained that the Klan would have called HARRY MOORE out and shot him as he came out of his house or might possibly have shot him in an automobile from ambush.

[redacted] openly admitted former membership in the Klan relating that in April, 1948 he was recruited into the American Club (Apopka Branch) of the Association of Georgia Klans by R. G. STEPHENS (or STEVENS) (who died six months ago).

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In February, 1950 he was banished from the Klan after a trial under the following circumstances:

He was accused by the opposition in the Apopka Branch of the Klan of "knocking thos niggers in the head". Because of the dissention in the Apopka Branch of the Klan he, R. G. STEPHENS (or STEVENS) and a third

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man made contacts with the members of that branch of the Klan in order to have a conference aside from the regular meeting of the Klan. [ ] claims it was because of this effort on his part to bring harmony into the branch that he was charged with conspiracy and four other counts, one of which was drinking beer at a meeting in the woods.

A trial was had and STEPHENS and he were banished from the Klan. The leader of the Apopka branch is alleged to have been the man who engineered this trial. Four months after [ ] and STEPHENS were banished, the man who had arranged for their ouster was himself "kicked out of the Klan". Thereafter two members of the Apopka Klan approached him and asked him to return to the Klan.

[ ] believed that another reason why he was banished from the Klan was because he believed in cooperating and associating with the other Klan groups in the area.

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Repeatedly during the interview [ ] volunteered his belief that "the Klan is the most wonderful organization in the world." Insofar as the State of Florida is concerned, he also believed that the Southern Knights of the Klan is presently the stronger group. He insisted he was no longer a member of the Klan.

When questioned concerning his attitude towards the negroes, he indicated he felt that the white race was far superior to the colored race and said "I think I'm better than a nigger." He went on to explain his philosophy with regard to the negro race by telling a story comparing the negro race to african monkeys. The story, in substance, was to the effect that a serviceman returning from the african campaign brought a monkey back to the States and returned to his father's cotton plantation. He started picking cotton and the monkey seeing him immediately started picking cotton. In a few days the monkey was picking a good deal more cotton than an experienced picker and the ex-serviceman immediately thought of getting a boat load of monkeys to pick the cotton.

He consulted a lawyer about the technicalities of bringing over a boat load and the lawyer told him that he should give it considerable thought because if he brought a boat load of monkeys to the States it would just be a short time when they would be allowed to vote. [ ] explained that is exactly how he feels about "niggers".

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However, he insisted he has never mistreated any negroes and that most of his income in his radio shop is made from the colored people in

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Apopka. He had never worn the hood of the Klan because he does not believe in it and has only been on one "ride" in his life and that one was to chastise a white man who mistreated his wife and caused a miscarriage. In this particular instance he said he was in the lead car and did not get out of the car because the white man was a neighbor of his and knew him well.

Even though the subject was not at that time made a topic of the interview, [redacted] voluntarily stated that he knew a lot about explosives because of his Army service, in fact, knew as much as anybody in the area and regarded himself as one of the best demolition experts in the country. However, he did state he was afraid to "mess with dynamite" because it was unreliable. He stated he had not handled any explosives since his return from the service in 1945.

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When questioned concerning his activity on Christmas day, 1951, WADE stated he was home all day and was visited by [redacted] and wife from Zellwood and Vine Lake, Florida and a [redacted] of Apopka.

[redacted] was questioned specifically about the Reissing sub-machine gun but insisted he never owned one and did not know of anyone who had such a gun or of anyone who had a machine gun set on a tripod. He admitted that he had owned a M-3 service sub-machine gun known as a "greasegun"; remarking that at the time he had his difficulties with the opposition in the Apopka branch of the Klan he was told by the opposition they had enough on him to send him up the river. Sometime after that statement was made, after pondering why such a statement was made, he concluded that those individuals must have referred to the M-3 sub-machine grease gun. Thereupon he threw the gun in the lake. He explained he had never shot the gun, that it was a treasured souvenir having obtained it in action during his service in the war.

Following is a description of [redacted] as obtained from interrogation and observation:

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Born	[redacted]
Place of birth	Nassau County, Florida
Height	[redacted]
Weight	[redacted]
Eyes	[redacted]
Hair	[redacted]

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Peculiarities	Had temporary brown mustache
Father	[redacted] of Hilliard, Florida operator of [redacted] in Folkston, Georgia.
Mother	[redacted] Hilliard, Florida
Brother	" "
Sister	" "
Wife	[redacted]
Children	[redacted]
ASN	[redacted] Signal Corps 2 years, Honorable discharge 8-45
Residence	[redacted] Florida since 1947
Prior residence	Nassau County, Florida

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Photographs of [redacted] in various poses have been obtained.



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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 19, 1952:

BasIs: Inasmuch as [redacted] is reported to be one of the renegade group of the Klan, his father [redacted] was interviewed.

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[redacted] who resides at Lake Mendelin on the outskirts of Orlando, Florida and is in the construction business with his office at [redacted] Orlando, furnished the following information:

He originally joined the Klan about 30 years ago at Middleton, Ohio and still belongs to the Klan being a member of the Apopka branch of the Georgia Klans. He knows EARL BROOKLYN by sight; has met PAT HALL, a plasterer over at the Klan lodge at an Apopka meeting several years ago; met CURLY BELVIN several years ago at an Apopka meeting of the Klan but could furnish no specific information concerning the activities of any of these individuals.

He does not know where EARL BROOKLYN lives and only became acquainted with him because BROOKLYN drove concrete trucks to jobs on which [redacted] worked. The names of numerous other individuals known to be in the Klan in the Orlando area were mentioned to [redacted] but he stated he did not know any other persons in the Klan except the above three and his son, [redacted] who presently belongs to the Klan.

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He was inactive in the Klan from about 1933 until four years ago when he rejoined it in the Apopka Branch at the suggestion of his son, [redacted] in fact he is still inactive in the Klan and has only attended one meeting in the past three years, that being a fish fry. He insists he does not know the identity of any of the officers of the Klan, has never mixed with any Klan group and knew nothing of the Groveland incident or instant case.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Fernandina Beach, Florida on January 21, 1952:

BASIS: The letter-head of the Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc., of which Victim HARRY T. MOORE was Executive Secretary, lists [redacted]

[redacted] The following investigation was conducted to determine the extent of his relationship with Victims and any information he might have relating to the persons responsible for their deaths.

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[redacted] advised that he is a member of the Progressive Voters League but has never attended any meetings of the organization. He said that he has served as [redacted] of the NAACP group in Fernandina Beach until its charter lapsed last year. As [redacted] of this organization he began correspondence with the Victim, HARRY T. MOORE in 1948. He has only met MOORE on one occasion when he, MOORE, spoke in Fernandina Beach before the local group of the NAACP in the spring of 1949. He knew nothing of his personal life or his friends; he has never met HARRIETT MOORE and knew very little of their background. He said that he always regarded MOORE highly and thought that he was in good standing with all members of the NAACP. He learned through a lawyer by the name of [redacted] who is associated with the Afro-American Insurance Company in Jacksonville, Florida that MOORE's position of State Executive Secretary was abolished by a recent convention of the group and was informed by [redacted] that this action was taken due to the fact that MOORE was devoting a majority of his time to the Progressive Voters League rather than to the NAACP activities.

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[redacted] advised that MOORE never mentioned in his correspondence any individuals or groups whose animosity was aroused against him and [redacted] knew of no enemies that MOORE might of had. He was unable to furnish any information that would be of assistance in identifying the individuals responsible for the death of the Victims.

He added that he is acquainted with the Victim's sister, [redacted] [redacted] who resides on [redacted] in Jacksonville, Florida; however, he has not seen her since June of 1951.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 18, 1952:

BASIS. [redacted] States Investigator, suggested that [redacted] be contacted inasmuch as he was acquainted with criminal activities in the Orlando area and might know something about instant case.

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[redacted] Orlando, [redacted] of a Cities Service Station at 445 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, upon being interviewed advised that he does not have any specific information about the activities of the Klan in the Orlando area but generally believes that about half the people in the Orlando area are members of the Klan.

[redacted] who has been in the Orlando area since 1941 and was formerly in charge of the MPs on the Orlando Air Force Base, is not acquainted with any specific Klansmen and has absolutely no knowledge concerning the Mims bombing except what he read in the newspaper or heard over the radio.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MELCH and ROBERT E. SUNKEL on January 10, 1952:

BASIS: Information received from [redacted], Brevard County Board of Instruction, to the effect that it was his recollection [redacted] of HARRIETT MOORE, had requested the replacement of HARRY T. MOORE as Principal at the Mims, Florida, negro school.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, advised he had approached [redacted] only once and this was occasioned by the fact that the school bus used in transporting colored children to the Mims school had broken down and there existed no means of transportation. [redacted] said he approached [redacted] with regard to the repairing of the bus or the utilization of some other means of transportation.

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[redacted] emphatically denied that he had ever desired the replacement of HARRY T. MOORE and explained that he felt HARRY MOORE was an excellent school teacher and Principal. He said to his knowledge all of the colored children got along very well with HARRY MOORE as did all the parents in the neighborhood and to his knowledge all the colored people in the Mims area were completely satisfied with HARRY MOORE.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRED E. GORDON and [redacted] on January 17, 1952:

BASIS: Among MOORE's personal effects was a letter dated October 1, 1951 to Chief of Police ROGER WILLIS, Ormond Beach, Florida, in which he was pressing for prosecution of [redacted] for the cutting of one [redacted] a student at Bethune-Cookman, in Ormond Beach, Florida during August, 1951. These interviews to determine whether or not [redacted] knew that MOORE was pressing prosecution and might have been sufficiently incensed to do him harm.

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President RICHARD V. MOORE, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, recalled the incident involving [redacted] and said that when the incident occurred MOORE was in summer school at Bethune-Cookman and after the cutting of the negro student, MOORE became quite interested in attempting to bring about prosecution of the two white men involved.

President MOORE said that a conference had been held in his office at some date, unrecalled by him, after the cutting, attended by ROGER WILLIS, HARRY MOORE and [redacted] and that the conference was strictly on a friendly basis and it was his personal opinion that WILLIS had gone all out in an effort to bring about the prosecution of the white men. MOORE knew of no animosity existing between the victim MOORE, [redacted]

Dean JACK . THOMPSON, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, recalled the incident and verified the information furnished by President MOORE as set forth above. He recalled that at some stage of the game, subsequent to the cutting, he, THOMPSON, had received a letter from victim MOORE regarding his interest in the case but that the letter had been destroyed. THOMPSON knew of no threats which [redacted] may have made to the victim and knew of no information which would have any bearing on the death of HARRY MOORE.

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[redacted] Professor at Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida, recalled the incident whereby [redacted] a student at Bethune-Cookman had, during August, 1951, taken a carload of negroes to the Ormond Beach Tropical Gardens and Zoo for the apparent purpose of sightseeing and that as he recalled, [redacted] had parked his car and left his friends in the car and had walked to the snack bar to ask if colored people would be allowed to look through the place.

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Apparently when [redacted] made inquiry two or three white men were standing around the snack bar and one asked [redacted] "What the hell are you negroes doing around here." Apparently [redacted] attempted to explain his situation, whereby one of the white boys took a knife from his pocket and slashed at [redacted] cutting him across the right side and rear of his neck. Thereafter the matter was reported to ROGER WILLIS, Chief of Police at Ormond Beach, Florida who is also a Constable in that district and an immediate investigation by WILLIS apparently determined that the individuals involved were [redacted]

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Thereafter the matter was held in abeyance for a while pending further investigation by WILLIS and ultimately a conference was held in the office of States Attorney MURRAY SAMS, DeLand and present were HARRY MOORE, [redacted] the two white men allegedly involved and possibly [redacted] negro attorney from Daytona Beach.

As a result of the conference before MURRAY SAMS, it was [redacted] recollection SAMS announced there was insufficient evidence developed to warrant prosecution of [redacted] and therefore the matter was closed. [redacted] recalled that [redacted] was hazy in his identification of the suspects and could not positively identify either man.

[redacted] said it was his recollection that after this matter was terminated by the States Attorney and [redacted] the negro attorney, a suit against the management of Ormond Beach Tropical Gardens, suing them for \$10,000. was brought. The suit was apparently filed in DeLand and an announcement was made in the papers concerning it but the outcome is unknown to [redacted]

[redacted] said he thought ROGER WILLIS was doing all that he could in order to bring about successful prosecution of the individuals involved, however, victim HARRY MOORE intimated to [redacted] that he felt WILLIS was withholding information or possibly stalling. [redacted] said that MOORE was persistent in his efforts to bring about prosecution and had several talks with ROGER WILLIS, the nature and outcome of which are not known to him.

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[redacted] said that everyone who had anything to do with the case was conscious of the fact HARRY MOORE was pushing prosecution and he felt certain that the two white men [redacted] knew who HARRY MOORE was, however, he did not from his own knowledge, believe that the two white men were sufficiently incensed at MOORE's efforts to thereafter cause him any harm.

[redacted] related concerning MOORE's activities that he, [redacted]

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together with MOORE and other officials of the NAACP branches from all over the State of Florida, which included the Presidents and Executive Secretaries of the various NAACP chapters, had held a meeting at Winter Park, Florida during the latter part of July or August, 1951, which meeting was held at the Recreation Center or Women's Hall in Winter Park. [ ] said the meeting was an open meeting and was held for the express purpose of pushing "NAACP action in the Groveland case". [ ] said that he personally attended this meeting and he heard HARRY MOORE plead for funds for the financing of the appeal in the Groveland case and recalled that MOORE had announced at the meeting that he was "under pressure" on account of his work in connection with the Lake County affair.

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[ ] said that MOORE had told him that he had been to Lake County investigating the matter there with Attorney [ ] from Orlando.

As far as the meeting was concerned, [ ] said he did not recall the names of the individuals present but that he recalled that NAACP representatives from Orlando, Tampa, Lake County, Daytona Beach, Gainesville and Sanford were present. Also present and making an appeal for funds for support of the Groveland matter was [ ] Regional Coordinator, Southern Region for NAACP.

[ ] said that the meeting was held in the colored section of Winter Park and as far as he could recall there was no trouble at the meeting or after the meeting, he did not recall that any police officers, either white or colored were present and had never heard that the meeting was cased by any white men. At this meeting [ ] said that MOORE plainly and strongly indicated that every ounce of energy he had was centered on the investigation of the Groveland matter and that the Groveland case was the #1 job in Florida for the NAACP in order that they "might obtain justice for everyone concerned." [ ] reiterated his statement concerning this and stated the Groveland matter was all that HARRY MOORE had in his mind.

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[ ] said that MOORE was very much concerned about the fact that WELLS McCALL after the shooting of SHEPHERD and IRVIN was allowed to remain in office and MOORE clearly and strongly indicated that the Circuit Judge and JESS HUNTER "were unqualified to prosecute the matter because they were biased."

At the meeting in Winter Park MOORE indicated he had talked with various officials in Lake County and MOORE said "I was hampered and hamstrung at every turn." [ ] said that possibly 100 or more people attended this meeting in Winter Park and that it was covered by the press. He said at this

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meeting MOORE criticized the Lake County officials who had refused to cooperate with him in his investigation of the matter. [redacted] reiterated that the main theme of the Winter Park meeting was the Groveland case, that the meeting lasted four and half hours and that MOORE, and [redacted] were the principal speakers and kept hammering on the Groveland case.

In addition [redacted] said that he had heard from a colored truant officer in DeLand on December 28, 1951 when he, [redacted] was there refereeing a basket ball game, that MOORE could possibly have avoided his fate on Christmas night had he listened to his daughter. [redacted] questioned the truant officer, whose name he does not recall, but who can be identified, and the truant officer is alleged to have said that MOORE's daughter, and [redacted] thought the daughter was [redacted] however, it could not have been she because [redacted] did not arrive at home until after the bombing, but at any rate, the daughter, apparently [redacted] is alleged to have told her father on Christmas afternoon that she had seen some white men walking around the grove near their home and that when the daughter told her father about this the father brushed her aside by saying a lot of people walk around on Christmas afternoon.

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Also [redacted] said he understood from this truant officer that a [redacted] a colored teacher from Oak Hill, had visited the MOORES on Christmas day several hours before the bombing and that [redacted] had allegedly gone to the MOORE house and found no one at home but had returned later and had seen MOORE and apparently other members of his family,

Also [redacted] advised that subsequent to the bombing the two daughters of MOORE had gone home with a colored school teacher from DeLand named [redacted] who lives at the corner of [redacted] in DeLand and he felt that possibly [redacted] may have been told some information by the daughters which might be pertinent,

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[redacted] further advised that subsequent to the bombing he had discussed MOORE's death with numerous colored people in Titusville and Brevard County and that the colored people there believed that some local negro was undoubtedly brought into the picture in that no white man could have known so intimately MOORE's habits and the location of his bedroom. He added that the colored people all felt that MOORE's activity in Lake County was responsible for his death.

[redacted] concluded by stating that MOORE, in practically all of his speeches that he had ever heard about, was extremely critical of the KKK activity and "mobism". He said that [redacted] also made many strong



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statements concerning the Klan activity at the Winter Park meeting and that both [redacted] and MOCRA were pressing for mass action on the part of NAACP to assist in the Groveland case.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents CLYDE P. ADERHOLD and PRUE C. CLINKSCALES on January 20, 1952:

BASIS: Information furnished by [redacted] that HARRY T. MOORE had attended a meeting of the district leaders of the NAACP, Winter Park, Florida, during August, 1951 at which time MOORE spoke at length about the Groveland case, the raising of funds to defend the victims of the Groveland case and remarks by MOORE against the KKK.

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[redacted] when reinterviewed advised that he had attended a meeting of district leaders of the NAACP during July or August, 1951 at the Women's Club in Winter Park, Florida. [redacted] recalled that [redacted] Southern Region NAACP, had attended and spoken to the group.

[redacted] advised that he was late in arriving at this particular meeting, that he knew that HARRY T. MOORE was present at the meeting but added that if MOORE spoke before this group he spoke before [redacted] arrived at the meeting.

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When questioned as to MOORE's activity in raising funds for the defense of the victims in the Groveland Case, [redacted] advised that HARRY T. MOORE had been interested in the case but had never been too active in soliciting funds for their defense. He advised that a "young man from one of the Orlando branches" (NAACP) had more or less taken over the soliciting of defense funds, had "left HARRY MOORE out in the cold" and had gone directly to National Headquarters of NAACP which assumed responsibility for the collecting of funds for defense of the subjects of the Groveland case.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]  
[redacted] on January 5 through 7, 1952:

BasIS: A postcard postmarked West Palm Beach, December 28, 1951  
at 6:30 P.M. to the "Klansmen of Mims, % Mayor" was signed  
[redacted] in which he wrote: "We Klansmen solemnly gather to  
glorify your good work. More power to you and our illustrious  
Gov. WARREN Dead Negroes tell no tales. 100% white Supremacy"

\*\*\*

The 1951 city directories for West Palm Beach and Palm Beach,  
Florida, do not contain the name [redacted]. The telephone directories for  
West Palm Beach and Palm Beach, Florida do not contain the name of [redacted]  
[redacted]

Confidential Informant T-3, a businessman of known reliability,  
advised [redacted] the KKK in the West Palm Beach area in 1925 to  
1927. He advised that he has never heard of a [redacted]

The following advised they do not know and do not have a record  
of [redacted]

[redacted] Palm Beach Tax Collector  
Lieutenant [redacted] Palm Beach Police Department  
Ed. McKENNA, Postmaster, Palm Beach, Florida  
[redacted] Palm Beach County Credit Bureau  
[redacted] Deputy Sheriff, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
[redacted], West Palm Beach Police Department  
OLIVER HARTWELL, Superintendent of Mails, Post Office, West Palm Beach,  
Florida.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent FRED E. GORDON on January 16, 1952:

BASIS: [redacted] Night Jailer, Titusville, Florida, was the first officer of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to be notified concerning the explosion.

\*\*\*

[redacted] Night Jailer, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, advised that he received a telephone call at approximately 10:45 P.M., December 25, 1951 from [redacted] in Mims, Florida, advising him that a negro had come to him, [redacted] at his place of business, [redacted] and told him the MOORE home had been dynamited.

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According to [redacted] informed him to get somebody up there as soon as possible.

[redacted] informed that he immediately hung up the phone and called Deputy Sheriff [redacted] at his home residence.

Radio log for December 25, 1951 indicates that Deputy Sheriff [redacted] checked in service at 10:48 P.M. on that date.

FEJ:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent FRED E. GORDON on January 16, 1952:

BAIS: In an interview [redacted] claimed he overheard in a message transmitted from the jailer at Titusville to Deputy Sheriff [redacted] that a person was at the jail who was bleeding at the ears. This has reference to the night of December 25, 1951.

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Deputy Sheriff [redacted] Brevard County Sheriff's Office, advised in regard to the man who was at the jail who was bleeding at the ears, that one of the negro inmates by the name of [redacted] who had previously been arrested by the Sheriff's office on December 22, 1951 for driving while under the influence, was having an epileptic fit there at the jail. Jailer [redacted] was merely informing Deputy Sheriff [redacted] of this fact.

FEG:JMS  
MM 44-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent FRED E. GORDON on January 16, 1952:

BASIS: Information developed that [redacted] had wanted MOORE released from teaching job.

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[redacted] Mims, Florida, advised in reference to the above that he had no information relative to anyone outside of [redacted] who wanted MOORE released from his teaching job. [redacted] advised he himself had never approached MOORE along these lines.

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[redacted] referred to one [redacted] at Bartow, Florida, who had worked in the Brevard County school system at the same time as MOORE as possibly having additional information along these lines. According to [redacted] taught at Cocoa, Florida at this time.

EWS:JMS  
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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent H. WAYNE SWINNEY on January 12 at Ocala, Florida:

BASIS: To ascertain the reputation of [redacted] daughter of victim to ascertain if she had had any recent activities which might reflect on the instant case.

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[redacted] J. F. BOSS, Principal of the Howard Academy High School, advised [redacted] daughter of victim, taught at his school and was his secretary. He advised she was of excellent character and reputation and he knew of no trouble she had had with any boy friends. He further stated she discussed much of her personal life with him and at no time has she made any comment which would reflect on the reason for or those responsible for the Mims explosion. He added that before she left for her Christmas vacation she gave no signs of disturbance.

[redacted] advised [redacted] has lived with her for three years and she could not furnish any information from the activities of [redacted] which might be in connection with the instant explosion in Mims. She advised [redacted] has had no trouble with boy friends to her knowledge and she considers her to be of excellent character and reputation.

The records of the Ocala Police Department and Marion County Sheriff's Office reflected no information concerning [redacted].

FFM:JMS  
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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. SHANNON and FRANK F. MEECH on January 14 and 19, 1952:

BASIS: The billfold of HARRY T. MOORE contained a slip of paper with the notation "Rev. PAYNE --- Apopka". In view of the fact such a notation was contained in his billfold indicated the possibility of a recent contact between MOORE and PAYNE. Accordingly, Rev. PAYNE was located and interviewed at Apopka, Florida.

\*\*\*

Rev. HENRY PAYNE, Second Pastor of a colored Methodist Church at Apopka, Florida, was contacted and at first denied knowing HARRY T. MOORE. When apprised of the fact that HARRY MOORE was active in the NAACP Rev. PAYNE stated he did recall seeing HARRY MOORE in Apopka in about the third week of November, 1951. On this occasion there was a meeting of the NAACP, the Apopka Branch, and HARRY MOORE was the principal speaker. He said that he recalled the meeting was for the purpose of raising funds for the national office in New York City.

Rev. PAYNE stated there was a large audience in attendance, believing that the number of persons would approximate 150. He did not recall specifically the details of MOORE's address but did state that he told the audience of the work the NAACP was doing and why it was to the advantage of all colored persons to be a member.

He did recall that MOORE mentioned the [redacted] case (the killing of SAMUEL SHEPHERD and WALTER LEE IRVIN), MOORE made the statement to the audience "We (the NAACP) are not through with the case yet."

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Rev. PAYNE was an elderly man well into his 70s, could furnish very little information about the meeting and said that he himself had never personally met HARRY MOORE. When HARRY MOORE spoke in Apopka it was the first time he had ever seen HARRY MOORE although he had heard about him on numerous occasions.

He could furnish no reason for HARRY MOORE having his name on the slip of paper in his billfold except possibly because he was the Second Pastor of the Church and HARRY MOORE may have desired to contact him in the future concerning NAACP work.

Rev. PAYNE said that a [redacted] of the Apopka Branch of the NAACP and was in charge of the particular meeting

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referred to above. PAYNE indicated that [redacted] could furnish complete details of HARRY MOORE's activities in the Apopka area.

[redacted] at Apopka, Florida, was interviewed on January 19, 1952 at which time she furnished the following information:

She [redacted] of the Apopka branch of the NAACP which had its last official meeting November 19, 1951. She had invited HARRY T. MOORE to be the principal speaker at that meeting so that he could explain the NAACP to the members and other persons gathered there. She explained that some negroes had been afraid to join the organization and did not believe it was a legitimate or legal organization.

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In addressing the 50-75 persons attending, MOORE spoke of the aims of the NAACP in general terms and then had a question and answer session for the benefit of the audience. [redacted] states that MOORE did not emphasize any one thing in this talk but did explain what the NAACP was doing for the negroes. She admitted that the Groveland incident was mentioned but could not recall exactly what was said by MOORE. The purpose of the meeting was to raise funds for the home office of the NAACP.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent H. WAYNE SWINNEY on January 12, 1952 at Tavares, Florida:

BASIS: Interview officials of Lake County, Florida for any information they might have relative to recent activities of victim, HARRY T. MOORE or any indication his case might be related to the Lake County-Groveland case.

\*\*\*

JESS HUNTER, States Attorney, advised he knew of nothing concerning the persons responsible for the Mims accident. He added he was "dumb-founded" at the death and he knew of no recent activities of MOORE in or around Lake County. He stated he was not in Lake County during the recent trials of the subjects in the Groveland case to his knowledge. He added that he corresponded with MOORE and considered him an "inoffensive" individual.

According to HUNTER it was his belief that the communists were responsible for the bombing of the residence of MOORE in an effort to further agitate racial trouble in Florida. HUNTER stated he felt there was some trouble in the NAACP between the Florida leaders consisting of [redacted] of Ocala and [redacted] of the Florida edition of the COURIER in Miami, Florida, who were on one side as being against the New York element of which MOORE was a part. According to HUNTER these leaders of the Florida group felt MOORE was being too aggressive and approaching the negro question in the wrong way. HUNTER believed the bomb was probably made in New York, however, he had nothing to base this on.

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TROY HALL, County Judge, advised he knew of nothing concerning the instant case except that which he read in the paper and further advised the victims were unknown to him as he had never before heard of MOORE.

WILLIS V. McCALL, Sheriff, Lake County, advised he knew of no information relative to the bombing of the home of MOORE in Mims, Florida. He stated he knew of MOORE, however, he did not believe he had been in Tavares during the trial of the Groveland negroes nor did McCALL know of any recent activities of MOORE in Lake County.

JPS-JMS  
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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents FRANK F. MEECH and JAMES P. SHANNON on January 15, 1952:

BAIS: [redacted] negro attorney, Orlando, was interviewed inasmuch as he was associated with the defense in the Groveland case and might have information concerning HARRY T. MOORE and his activities with reference to that case.

\*\*\*

[redacted] negro Attorney, [redacted] Orlando, Florida, advises that it was not until the last day of the conference of the NAACP at Daytona Beach Florida on November 25, 1951 that he personally met HARRY T. MOORE. [redacted] did not attend any of the business meetings of the NAACP at the Daytona Beach conference, arriving only to hear part of [redacted]'s talk and then met both [redacted] and HARRY MOORE for the first time.

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Prior to the conference he had received a letter from HARRY T. MOORE asking him to participate in a discussion panel at the NAACP Daytona Beach conference. In the letter MOORE had told him that he was going to be in the Orlando area the week prior to the Daytona Beach conference; however PERKINS did not see MOORE during that week inasmuch as he, [redacted] was out of town at the time.

[redacted] suggested that MOORE might have contacted [redacted] of the NAACP chapter in the Orlando area or [redacted] of that chapter.

[redacted] who comes from North Carolina, practiced law in Jacksonville, Florida from June, 1949 until May, 1950 when he came to Orlando. It was not until August, 1950 that he entered the Groveland case.

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[redacted] claims he has never been an ardent member of the NAACP and therefore knew little of MOORE's activities. He did not see or hear about MOORE after the Daytona Beach conference.

When questioned concerning any possible activity of HARRY MOORE in the Orlando area during or after the Groveland rape trial, [redacted] stated that he had never heard that MOORE had been in the area during those periods. The only information he did have concerning MOORE's activities was that he had heard generally that MOORE was trying to improve negro conditions and to get out the negro vote throughout the States.

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[redacted] had heard prior to the Daytona Beach conference that the NAACP didn't have any money and that they would have to abandon MOORE's job as Executive Secretary. He hadn't heard of any replacement.

[redacted] was questioned concerning the rumors prevalent in the Mims area to the effect that MOORE had been "run out of Orlando or the Groveland area." He replied that the only story or rumor of a similar nature which had come to his attention was that relating to an alleged incident in Apopka, Florida. He had heard that some people who had been at a hamburger stand in Apopka claimed that they saw an automobile speeding through town being chased by other automobiles. The allegation is that the car was occupied by negro attorney [redacted] of Daytona Beach, Florida. [redacted] the NAACP attorney who is now in San Francisco and [redacted] writer for the New York POST.

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The incident is alleged to have occurred immediately after the termination of the Groveland rape trial in Lake County in August, 1949 and it is alleged that the above three individuals were run out of town in that manner. These allegations have never been substantiated.

[redacted] states he has not heard of any recent activities of the Ku Klux Klan though he has an opportunity to speak with many of the ordinary negroes in the area. He had never heard of EARL BROOKLYN or TILMAN BELVIN or any of the rabid Klansmen of the area. When questioned as to the possible origin or reason for the death of HARRY MOORE, [redacted] stated there were two theories, one advocated by the average negro that his death was a result of his activities in the Groveland case and the second theory that it might have been caused by his political activity in his own area of Brevard County.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Vero Beach, Florida on January 14, 1952:

BASIS: Deputy Sheriff [redacted] Vero Beach, Florida, telephonically contacted the Miami Office and advised that some one in Sebastian, Florida, found some TNT and that the Sebastian Police have it now.

\*\*\*

Officer [redacted] Sebastian, Florida, Police Department, advised that [redacted] who just recently moved to Sebastian, Florida from Ohio, came to him and said that he was looking through an old vacant house and found some TNT in the house.

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Officer [redacted] went to the old house and got the TNT and brought it to the City Hall, Sebastian, Florida.

The house in which the TNT was found is owned by [redacted] RFD #6, Anderson, South Carolina, however it has been vacant for several years.

The TNT was examined at the City Hall, Sebastian, Florida, and there were twelve  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound blocks of the TNT. Each piece of the TNT was wrapped in a piece of newspaper. The newspapers were The Florida TIMES-UNION, Jacksonville, Florida and were dated March 3, 1946 and February 26, 1946. It will be noted that from the appearance of the TNT in the pieces of newspaper that they were wrapped sometime ago because the ends of the TNT packages had started to rust and the rust was on the papers as though they rusted in the newspapers.

Each one of the twelve pieces of TNT bore the following "High Explosive TNT  $\frac{1}{2}$  Pound Net Corps of Engineers Dangerous."

[redacted] city clerk, Sebastian, Florida, advised that LOUIS ROYAL lived in the old Wade Thompson house, where the TNT was found, in 1946 and that the only other person living in that house since that time was one WILLIAM PHINNEY, age 93 and who is mentally unbalanced. While PHINNEY lived in the house the house was condemned as unsanitary and they had to make PHINNEY move to some nursing home for the aged.

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[redacted] Sebastian, Florida, who has lived in Sebastian, Florida for the past 20 years and who lives across the street from the [redacted] vacant house, advised that instant TNT is just like that used at the Naval Base, Fort Pierce, Florida, during the war and that the Navy men gave some of it away and also left some of it at the Naval Base

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when it closed. [ ] advised that he got some of the TNT in about 1946 and exploded all he had. He stated that [ ] lived in the [ ] house, where the TNT was found, in 1946 and that [ ] had some of the TNT blowing stumps and he believes that this TNT is some he had left over and just left in the house when he moved away.

[ ] stated that he has never seen anyone suspicious looking around the old vacant house and he feels sure that the TNT was left there by [ ]. He stated that [ ] presently resides at Vero Beach, Florida, and is [ ] of the school at Vero Beach, Florida.

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Officer [ ] accompanied Agent to the old vacant house where the TNT was found and pointed out the place in the house where the TNT was found. It will be noted that the TNT was up on a shelf in an old room to the rear of the kitchen. There were newspapers all over the house dating as far back as 1938. There were newspapers also dating 1946 and were similar to the newspapers in which the TNT was wrapped. There were old papers, rags, and junk all over the house.

Officer [ ] stated that they will destroy the TNT.

[ ], General Delivery, Vero Beach, who live just off of North Federal Highway, advised that they lived in the old [ ] house in Sebastian, Fla. in 1946 and for a few years off and on prior to 1946. They left there in the Spring of 1946. They advised that they left the TNT in the old house when they moved. They advised that it was wrapped in newspapers and described the manner in which it was wrapped just as it was found. They stated that the TNT did not belong to them but that [ ] son, [ ] brought it there and it belonged to them; also that [ ] had some of the TNT and they believe that [ ] and [ ] got the TNT from [ ] but they are not sure.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on January 21, 1952 at Pompano Beach, Florida.

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BASIS: To determine the identity of the owners of license number 6-W3708. This automobile was at the funeral of HARRY T. MOORE and the owners should be interviewed as to their knowledge concerning the activities of MOORE.

\*\*\*\*

The Reverend JULIUS R. THOMPSON, 409 N. W. Church Street, Box 1733, was interviewed at his residence. The Reverend THOMPSON stated that he had known HARRY MOORE and his wife, since 1930. He explained that from 1930 to 1932 he, THOMPSON, was pastor of the Methodist Church in Mims, Florida. THOMPSON stated that during his service in Mims he was in frequent contact with HARRY MOORE and his wife.

Since leaving Mims, Florida at the end of 1932 THOMPSON stated that he has been in contact with HARRY MOORE from time to time as a result of MOORE's traveling throughout the state of Florida. THOMPSON stated that he has also maintained frequent contact with HARRY MOORE and his wife by correspondence.

With regard to the deaths of HARRY MOORE and his wife, the Reverend THOMPSON stated that he had no idea who could have committed this act. He stated that MOORE and his wife, to his knowledge, had no known enemies and seemed to be well liked by everyone. THOMPSON explained that MOORE and his wife were the type of people who did not incur the dislike of anyone who came in contact with them.

The Reverend THOMPSON stated that in view of his long time friendship with HARRY MOORE he traveled to Mims, Florida to attend his funeral. He stated that he had to leave before the services were completed in order to get back to Pompano Beach, Florida in time for his services.

The Reverend THOMPSON stated that in the event he obtained any information which might be of value in the investigation of this case he will immediately furnish same to the Miami Office. He added that subsequent to January 22, 1952 he will be located in West Palm Beach, Florida at 514 20th Street.

Reverend THOMPSON is the owner of a 1947 Cadillac sedan bearing 1951 Florida license 6-W3708, which was observed at MOORE's funeral.

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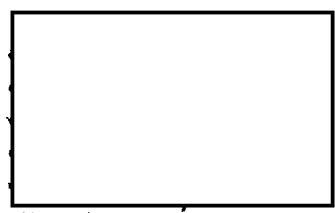
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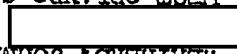
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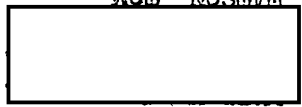
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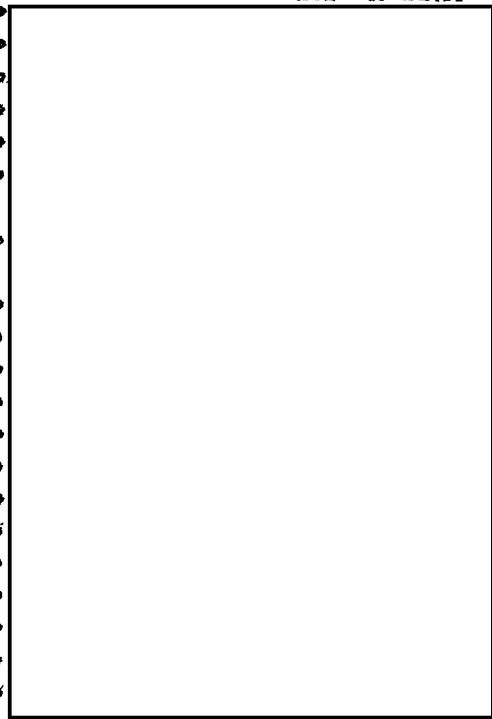
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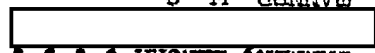
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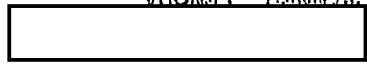
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ADMINISTRATIVE.

- T-1 [redacted] of Orlando, Florida, whose identity is kept confidential at her request.
- T-2 [redacted] of Apopka, Florida, whose identity is kept confidential at his request.
- T-3 [redacted], of West Palm Beach whose identity is kept confidential at his specific request.
- T-4 [redacted], Mulberry, Florida, who has requested that his identity be kept confidential.
- T-5 [redacted] Florida, who has requested that his identity be kept confidential.

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LEADS.

ATLANTA OFFICE

At Atlanta, Georgia,

Will contact [redacted] who resides at the Y.M.C.A. and is attending the Atlanta Southern College, Pharmaceutical Branch, concerning the activities of [redacted] TILLMAN HOLLY BELVIN in the Klan and the whereabouts of the BELVIN family on Christmas day, 1951.

This lead was previously set forth by Miami letter to Atlanta January 21, 1952.

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CHARLOTTE OFFICE

At Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina,

Will conduct background investigation concerning [redacted] and ascertain details of his 72 hour pass under which he visited his nephew, [redacted] in Mims, Florida on Christmas day, 1951. Will also ascertain whether or not [redacted] may have had access to any high explosive

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from Camp LeJeune or elsewhere.

This lead was previously set forth by Miami letter dated January 8, 1952.

MOBILE OFFICE

At Panama City, Florida,

Will interview [redacted]

both connected with the Progressive Voters League of Florida of which the victim, HARRY MOORE, was Executive Secretary, in order to obtain any information of interest to this investigation and to ascertain whether or not any threats were ever made against MOORE.

At Pensacola, Florida

Will interview [redacted] associated with the Progressive Voters League of Florida, concerning any information he might have of interest to this investigation and concerning any possible threats made against victim HARRY MOORE who was the Executive Secretary of that organization.

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These leads were set forth in Miami letter dated January 16, 1952.

NEW YORK CITY OFFICE

One copy of this report is designated for the New York office for information inasmuch as it is maintaining liaison with the National Headquarters of the NAACP.

SAVANNAH OFFICE

At Sumter, South Carolina,

Will interview [redacted] at the Y.M.C.A. concerning the activities of [redacted] TILLMAN H. BELVIN in the Ku Klux Klan and also concerning the activities of the BELVIN family on Christmas day, 1951.

This lead was previously set forth in Miami letter to Atlanta dated January 21, 1952, a copy of which letter was designated for the Savannah office.

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MIAMI OFFICE

Leads for the Miami Division are not being set forth inasmuch as they are being handled on an immediate basis within the Division.

- Miami will report results of additional FBI Laboratory examinations.

REFERENCE:

Report of ASAC W. W. BURKE, Jr. at Miami dated January 11, 1952.

Numerous telephone calls from the Bureau to Miami and numerous teletypes between Miami and the Bureau, as well as Miami and auxiliary offices.